

# Tudor Life

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THE  
TUDOR  
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REBELLION

THE EVIL  
MAY DAY RIOTS  
OF 1517

ESSEX REBELLION  
OF 1601

1595, A SUMMER  
OF DISCONTENT

THE WYATT  
REBELLION  
OF 1554

*plus*

AN INTERVIEW  
WITH MIKE  
INGRAM



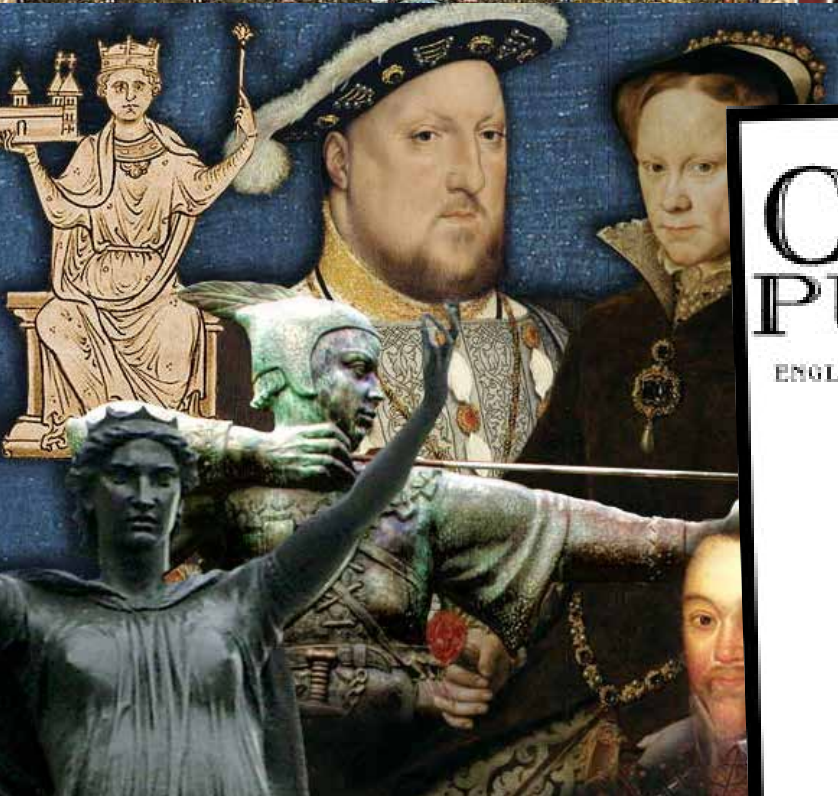
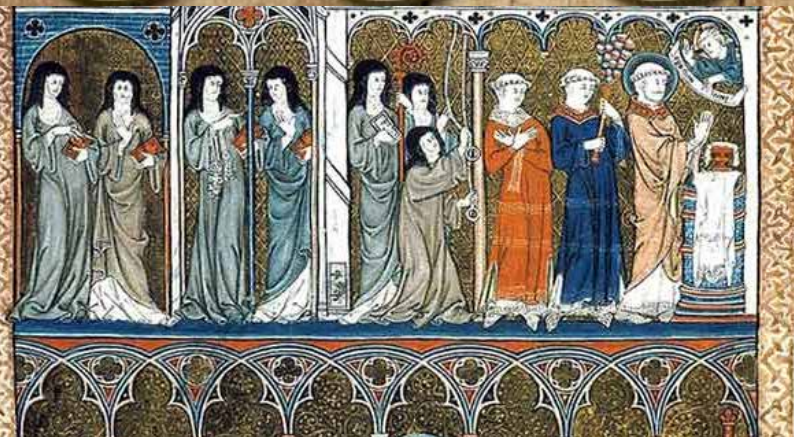
A Visit to Christchurch



# Medieval COURSES



## THE HISTORY OF THE MEDICI FAMILY



## CRIME & PUNISHMENT

ENGLAND'S CRIME AND PUNISHMENT THROUGH THE AGES







## REBELLION

**T**HIS A glance at the way History was taught to the Tudor upper classes shows how deeply they feared social unrest. Elite education in the 1500s was generally heavy on the Classics, with the fall of the Roman Empire attributed to the poison of rebellion. It was not just a cause of chaos, but a portal to sin – a sin of disobedience, treachery, and fear. Small wonder, then, that Tudor governments responded with such savagery to the rebellions that faced them – all of which, as we know, were ultimately defeated. The Yorkist pretenders and the Cornish against Henry VII, the Irish and the north against Henry VIII, the east and the traditionalists against Edward VI, the southern Protestants against Mary I, the northern Catholics against Elizabeth I – all were suppressed. But what caused these people to revolt against their “natural obedience” to their monarchs?

On a more personal note, I am delighted to welcome back as a regular columnist Lauren Browne, who is working towards her Ph. D. in early modern presentations of queenship and royal paramours. Lauren is a fantastic scholar, who we are thrilled to see return to “Tudor Life”. Her piece on the 1595 unrest in London, and Susan Abernethy’s on the May Day riots of 1517, remind us that unrest often came in a form other than mass rebellions.

**GARETH RUSSELL**  
**EDITOR**

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ABOVE: Portrait of Thomas Wyatt the Younger  
by Hans Holbein the Younger, circa 1540–42



# Tudor Life

The background is a collage of Tudor-related images. At the top, the title 'Tudor Life' is written in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, there are several overlapping images: a profile portrait of a man with a beard (likely Henry VIII) on the left, a portrait of a woman in a crown and jewelry (likely Elizabeth I) on the right, and a photograph of a Tudor-style building with a large tree in the foreground at the bottom right. The overall color palette is dark and rich, with reds, blues, and browns.

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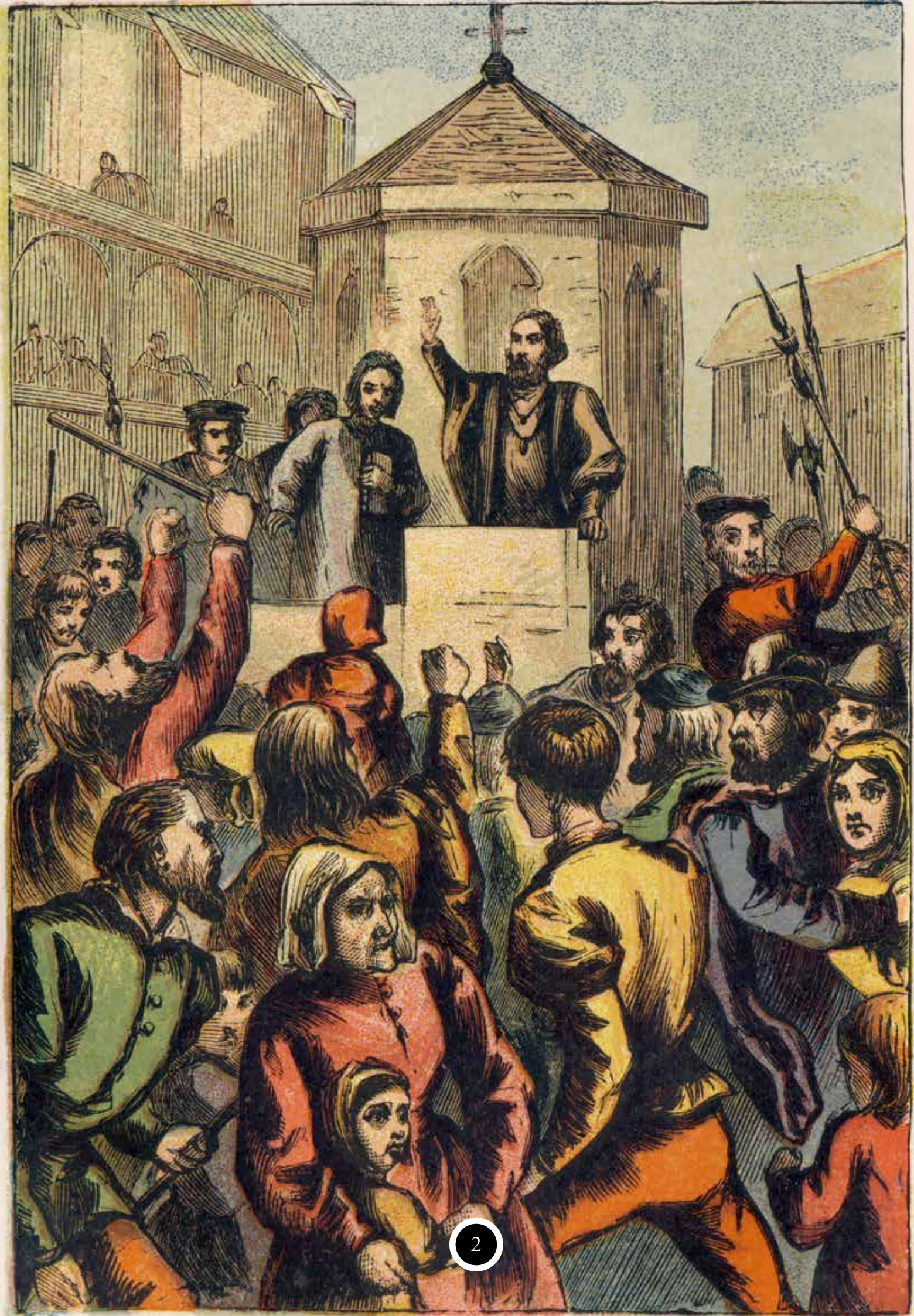
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# THE EVIL MAY DAY RIOTS, 1517



By the year 1516, there had been a period of peace between the European powers. During this interlude, many foreigners, especially Spaniards, came to London to start businesses. The English disapproved of ‘strangers’ and the new settlers created apprehension in the City. May Day had long associations with workers, protest, demonstration and rioting but it was definitely a favorite holiday in Tudor times, with dancing and merrymaking.

In the weeks before May, 1517, tensions had risen to new heights in London. A broker named John Lincoln began recruiting preachers to trumpet an adverse message about the foreigners to the City of London’s population. Lincoln initially asked Dr. Standish to preach a sermon at St. Mary Spital, asking the Mayor and aldermen to join in fighting against the strangers, but Standish prudently refused. Next, Lincoln turned to Dr. Bell who was due to preach from St. John’s Cross just within the confines of Old St. Paul’s Cathedral and he agreed. Lincoln convinced the preacher

the problems of the economy were due to the foreigners.

In his sermon, Dr. Bell preached that foreigners disdained Londoners and were stealing their trade as well as their wives and daughters. He roused up resentment of the wealth of the foreign merchants and successful immigrants. Bell called for ‘Englishmen to cherish and defend themselves, and to hurt and grieve aliens for the common weal’.

The Venetian ambassador states due to this propaganda, Londoners started menacing the ‘strangers’ and threatening that

on the first day of May, they would cut them to pieces and sack their houses, demonstrating this was a premeditated act. The hatred boiled over into conflict over the next few weeks. There were some periodic violent incidents about two days before May Day and the government's response was to declare martial law and order a curfew. This didn't go over well with the population as the people wanted to celebrate the holiday.

The evening before the first of May, a mob estimated at between one and two thousand and consisting of xenophobic apprentices, vagabonds and sanctuary men, gathered in Cheapside and began roaming throughout the City. The rioter's main focus was to damage, loot and destroy shops and houses in sections of the city where foreigners lived and worked. Mostly French and Spanish immigrants were violated but also Dutch and Jews and any others who were seen as an economic threat were pursued. Shops were ransacked and some houses were set on fire.

The mob closed the gates to obstruct the troops from coming to the rescue. The entire day would be violent, ugly and shameful. The rioters overpowered the forces of the Lord Mayor and aldermen and compelled them to open the jails and release the prisoners. Many were injured but it is unclear if anyone was killed.

The King was at Greenwich with Queen Katherine when news arrived of the disturbance. The foreigners were under Henry's protection and he

commissioned the Duke of Norfolk and his men to be sent to deal with the situation. They managed to put down the rioting fairly quickly. The gates were reopened and the preacher, along with a dozen ringleaders and hundreds of others, were arrested and put in prison. The King condemned them all to the gallows.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, twelve men were roped together in pairs and led through London to be tried. Predictably, they were found guilty. The gallows were quickly erected. No foreigners had been killed but the nobles set out for revenge and to set an example. The executions were carried out with no mercy. A dozen men were hanged, drawn and quartered at Cheapside. The mutilated remains of the rioters were put on display for all to see. Gibbets and the quarters of the corpses were at the City gates and they were a horrible sight. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, John Lincoln was executed.

The rest of those who were arrested were held in jails. The King and his council decided to restore peace and that it would make sense to pardon those who had been imprisoned. The resolution of the situation began at Richmond Palace. Queen Katherine, hearing of the plight of the young rioters, went before the King on bended knee with tears on her eyes, begging the King to have mercy. Henry relented.

The King, Wolsey and maybe even Queen Katherine too, decided it would be a good public relations exercise to repeat the intercession ceremony before the public, just like in medieval



times. A few days later, the prisoners were conveyed to Westminster Hall where the King sat on a high dais. This was a formal presentation and was attended by many nobles and bishops. The wives and mothers of the prisoners were at the back of the hall, audibly weeping.

Queen Katherine was seated on a throne behind the King. Her sisters-in-law Margaret, Dowager Queen of Scots and Mary, Dowager Queen of France were also there. Henry commanded all the prisoners be brought forth. They came forward in their shirts, bound in ropes, one after the other, with a halter around their necks. There were about four hundred men and eleven women.

Wolsey began by rebuking the prisoners for rioting. He then asked the King for mercy. Henry refused point blank. The prisoners, in a panic, called for "Mercy" because they all believed they were headed for execution. At this crucial moment, Queen Katherine rose from her seat and dropped to her knees. Margaret and Mary followed her lead. All three stayed on their knees in tears, begging for mercy from the King. Wolsey joined in, trying to persuade the King. After a long time, Henry finally granted his mercy.

The prisoners were relieved and

full of happiness. Each man took the halter from their own neck and threw it in the air and rejoiced. The prisoners were reunited with their families. Some of the mothers and wives came forward to thank Queen Katherine for her intercession. She answered them gently and left the hall.

Without a doubt, this was an effective public relations spectacle put on by Henry, Wolsey and the Queens for the huge crowd that had gathered to watch, possibly numbering as many as fifteen thousand. The gibbets were taken down and calm was restored to the city. Tudor England was not used to seeing rioting on this scale but things eventually returned to normal in the City.

Queen Katherine had played a crucial role in the incident and her popularity received a huge boost. The papal nuncio, Francesco Chiericato reported that there was no denying that it was Queen Katherine, with tears in her eyes, who convinced Henry to change his mind, giving the men their liberty. The Londoners learned how Katherine had interceded in private earlier and this only increased her reputation and their admiration. This would be the last and only time a Tudor queen practiced intercession in public.

## SUSAN ABERNETHY

"Catherine of Aragon: The Spanish Queen of Henry VIII" by Giles Tremlett

"The Six Wives of Henry VIII" by Alison Weir

"On This Day in Tudor History" by Claire Ridgway

"Elizabeth of York and Her Six Daughters-in-Law: Fashioning Tudor Queenship, 1485-1547" by Retha M. Warnicke

"The Evil May Day Riots – 1517" at <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/evilmayday>



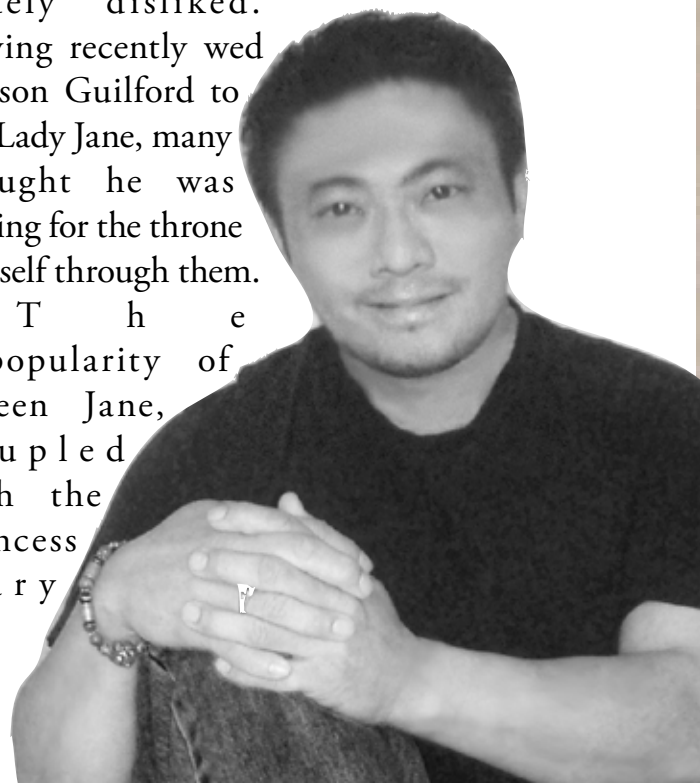
# The Wyatt Rebellion of 1554

by Roland Hui

**O**n July 10, 1553, a young woman - a mere teenager at that - disembarked at the wharf at the Tower of London. 'Accompanied by great Lords, men and women', the Lady Jane Grey - or rather 'Queen Jane' as she was now proclaimed - crossed the drawbridge and made her way into the great fortress.<sup>1</sup>

What was unusual to those who witnessed this event was how the natural order of precedence was disrupted. Bearing the new Queen's train, of all people, was her own mother the Duchess of Suffolk. An Italian diplomat who later wrote an account of Jane's reception was astonished.<sup>2</sup> 'To see a child Queen', he remarked, '[who] by certain reason came from the mother, father and mother living, and neither [one of them] King nor Queen'. Instead, the two were reduced to doing obeisance to her. Furthermore, where there should have been rejoicing and cheer, there was none. The crowd milling about the Tower was sullen, and there were none of the customary shouts of "God save the Queen"! Instead, one young man who did speak up, cried out that the *true* Queen was in fact the Princess Mary, daughter of the late King Henry VIII. For his audacity, he was taken to the public pillory and his ears cropped off.

These inauspicious signs, coupled with Jane's own reluctance to be Queen - she too like the outspoken youth, thought that her cousin Mary Tudor had the better right<sup>3</sup> - did not bode well for the new government. Furthermore, its leader, her father-in-law, the Duke of Northumberland was widely disliked. Having recently wed his son Guilford to the Lady Jane, many thought he was aiming for the throne himself through them. The unpopularity of Queen Jane, coupled with the Princess Mary





JEANNE GRAY.





claiming the crown for herself as her brother Edward VI's rightful heir, quickly led to disaster for Northumberland's regime. Just nine days after Jane Grey entered the Tower as Queen, she found herself a prisoner instead.

Victorious, Mary Tudor was prepared to be merciful. Although the Duke of Northumberland was put on trial and executed in August, Jane Grey's life was spared despite her being tried and condemned as a traitor later that autumn. The expectation would be that she continued to live quietly under house arrest at the Tower, and when Mary's reign was better secured, she would go free. For this, Jane was most grateful and exclaimed that 'the Queen's Majesty is a merciful princess. I beseech God she may long continue, and send His bountiful grace upon her'.<sup>4</sup>

However, circumstances would test Mary's resolve to be generous. As a queen and as a woman, there was every expectation she would marry. It was unthinkable that she could rule without the counsel of a husband, and she must secure the succession with a child of her body. As well, under the will of her father Henry VIII, next in line to the throne was her half-sister the Princess Elizabeth. Not only was the girl disagreeable to Mary as



the daughter of the notorious Anne Boleyn, but she was also a heretic. While Mary had remained steadfast to the old Catholic religion of her youth, her sister, like their late brother King Edward, had embraced Protestant teachings.

As Mary had always done, she looked to her cousin the Emperor Charles for guidance. Charles was not above furthering his own dynastic ambitions, and he put forward his son, Prince Philip of Spain, as the future King of England. Whatever she might have said about preferring the single life, Mary found herself in love, especially after receiving a portrait of the dapper Prince. She was resolved to marry him despite opposition from those in her own Council. Some would have preferred she accept Edward Courtney, the Earl of Devon. An Englishman, Courtney would be far suitable than Philip, whom many courtiers looked upon with suspicion as a foreigner. Even the Queen's common subjects were wary of the Spanish Prince. In early January 1554, when envoys from the Imperial court came to negotiate the Queen's marriage, 'the people, nothing rejoicing, held down their





heads sorrowfully'. Little boys even threw snowballs at them, 'so hateful was the sight of their coming in to them'. Embarrassed and irritated, the Queen ordered the citizens to behave themselves with 'humbleness and rejoicing' instead.<sup>5</sup>

Still, tensions grew. Not long after Mary's engagement was public made on January 14, there was talk of rebellion. These were confirmed a week later when the Earl of Devon made a startling confession. Angered by the Queen's rejection of him, he had drifted into conspiracy. Rather than marrying Mary, he would take the Princess Elizabeth as his wife and rule with her instead after Mary was deposed.

Courtney's confession forced the rebels into premature action. Chief amongst them was Sir Thomas Wyatt the Younger, the son of the late Sir Thomas Wyatt, a prominent courtier in the time of Henry VIII and a renowned poet. Even though the younger Wyatt was a Catholic like Queen Mary herself, the Spanish match was abhorrent to him. A plan was formulated that while Wyatt raised arms in his native Kent, the west would rise under Sir Peter Carew, and Herefordshire under Sir James Crofts. Meanwhile, Henry Grey, the Duke of Suffolk, father of the former Queen Jane, would bring forces from Leicestershire.

On January 25, the authorities received confirmation that the insurgents were ready to strike, and the government prepared to move against them. The city was fortified, and leaving no stone unturned, a wide net was cast in arresting suspected traitors. Some who had received pardon from the Queen for siding with the Duke Northumberland, found themselves imprisoned again. The Duke of Suffolk, who was in Surrey at his house at Sheen, received a summons to



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Sir Thomas Wyatt  
(by an Unknown Artist)

come to London. His brother Lord Thomas warned him not to go. They must escape to Suffolk's estates in Leicestershire where the Queen's men would not dare touch him. Henry Grey agreed. He thanked the royal messenger, saying that he was planning to go to court anyways, and would be ready to leave after breakfast. Meanwhile, would the messenger care for a drink, he asked? While the fellow was distracted, Suffolk, his two brothers Thomas and John, fled the house to Leicestershire to raise war.

Henry Grey's revolt against the woman who had pardoned him before has been interpreted as a madcap attempt to replace his daughter Jane on the throne. The government saw it that way, or at least pretended to, to deflect attention from the rebels' aim of preventing the unpopular Spanish match. At the end of January, a proclamation was issued against them:

*'by sowing of false and seditious rumours, raised certain evil disposed*

*persons in Kent unnaturally to rise and rebel against Her Highness; minding Her Grace's destruction, and to advance the Lady Jane, his daughter, and Guildford Dudley, her husband, the Duke of Northumberland's son, Her Grace's traitors attainted, unto Her Majesty's crown.*<sup>6</sup>

The popularity of Wyatt's revolt was evident as it swelled to some five thousand men within days. On January 27, Thomas Howard, the old Duke of Norfolk, was sent by the government to deal with the rebels at Rochester Bridge in Kent. Wyatt's soldiers jeered and hooted at Norfolk's offer of a royal pardon. Alexander Brett, one of Wyatt's captains, stirred up his men by asserting the justness of their actions. The Spanish, he exclaimed, were determined to pillage their goods and lands, and ravish their womenfolk. It was against this that he was willing to spill his blood alongside Wyatt. So rousing was Brett's speech that the rebels sent Norfolk and his army fleeing back to London.

Emboldened by Norfolk's retreat and by scores of the Duke's men deserting to the uprising, Wyatt marched towards London. The Queen was warned to take safety, but instead she headed to the city's Guildhall to win the populace to her. In a speech worthy of her sister Elizabeth's at the invasion of the Spanish Armada thirty-five years later, Mary addressed her people how she - as their anointed Queen rightly descended from Henry VIII, and 'wedded to the realm and laws of the same' - required their 'allegiance and obedience'. Lest any of her subjects believe that Wyatt and the other traitors were merely patriotic Englishmen concerned about the coming of the Spanish, Mary reminded them of Wyatt's 'insolent and proud answer' demanding possession of the Tower of London and herself as his prisoner. She asked

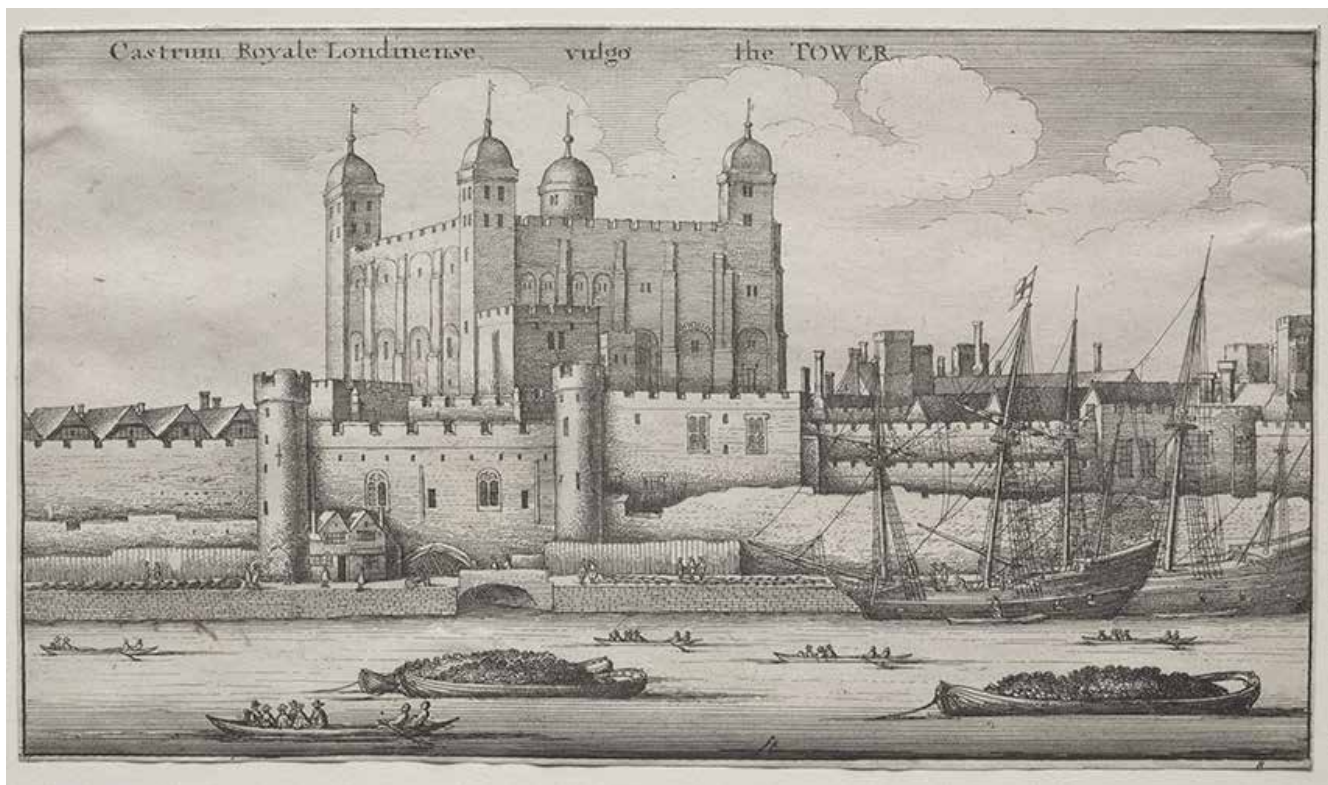
the citizens to 'pluck up your hearts, and like true men face up against these rebels! "And fear them not, she cried, "for I assure you I fear them nothing at all!"<sup>7</sup>

Won over by Mary's words, the people of London were wholly hers, and they prepared themselves against the advancing rebels. On February 3, the drawbridge access to London Bridge at Southwark was pulled down, and the bridge gates were shut. To defend the capital itself, the Lord Mayor and the sheriffs ordered all men folk to 'weapons and harness'. Still, there was great fear all around; 'aged men were astonished, many women wept for fear, and children and maids ran into their homes shutting the doors'.<sup>8</sup>

Unable to get on to London Bridge, Wyatt and his men were stuck in Southwark. But instead of finding the people loyal to the Queen, 'the said inhabitants most willingly with their best entertained them'.<sup>9</sup> Even soldiers, who were conscripted by Lord William Howard to fight against Wyatt, went over to his side. With his army increased in number, the rebel leader set up makeshift headquarters, fortifying it by making a great trench before the bridge, and by setting up cannons.

In response, it was decided by the Queen's military commanders at the Tower of London to take the offensive and fire upon the rebels with ordinance. However, when Mary herself was consulted, she refused. "Nay", she said, "that were pity, for many poor men and householders are like to be undone there and killed".<sup>10</sup> Nonetheless, an attack upon the southern bank went ahead later that evening. When a band of insurgents assailed a boat carrying the Lieutenant of the Tower's men, the authorities used it as justification to launch an attack.





The Tower of London (by Wenceslas Hollar)

Throughout the night and into the morning, cannon fire from the Tower bombarded Southwark. The barrage was so terrifying that the citizens implored Wyatt to leave. "Sir, we are like to be utterly undone all and destroyed for your sake... our houses, which are our livings, shall be by and be thrown down upon our heads... for the love of God, therefore, take pity upon us!"<sup>11</sup> Wyatt, not wanting innocent people to be harmed, agreed to depart. Going to Kingston, he and his men fired at those guarding the bridge there. Boats were then seized, allowing them to make their way across the Thames.

At Wyatt's appearance in the city that February 7, Mary and her court were 'wonderfully affrighted'.<sup>12</sup> Orders were given for all men to arm themselves and to rendezvous at Charing Cross. There was much concern for the Queen's safety, and she had considered taking refuge in the Tower, but decided to remain at the Palace of Whitehall

instead. Meanwhile, Wyatt began to panic. Unlike his warm reception in Southwark, he found no friendly faces in London. The people were not with him. At Charing Cross, he found himself fired upon, and at the Palace of St. James, he found the gates closed to him. Ludgate was shut as well. It was at Temple Bar that Wyatt, realizing it was over for him, surrendered.

That late afternoon, Wyatt and his fellow prisoners were taken by barge to the Tower. Instead of landing at the water gate beneath Saint Thomas' Tower (better known by its chilling moniker *Traitors' Gate*) and ushered directly into prison, Sir Henry Jerningham, recently made Vice Chamberlain, and in charge of the captives, had the boatmen stop at the wharf instead. From there, Wyatt and the others were marched up to the bulwark, at the east side of the Tower, so to enter by the Lion's Gate so that all may see them. Wyatt, the people noticed, was still dressed

in the chain mail shirt and velvet cassock he had fought in. Both were bloodied and in tatters now.

Wyatt received a taunting as he passed through the bulwark. “Go traitor”! one called out. “There never was such a traitor in England”!<sup>13</sup> Wyatt’s plea that he was no rebel was drowned out by jeers. At the Tower entrance, he was met by the Lieutenant, Sir John Bridges. Bridges grabbed Wyatt by the collar, and shouted in his face:

*“O thou villain and unhappy traitor! How could thou find in thine heart to work such detestable treason to the Queen’s Majesty... to make such a great and most traitorous stir, yielding her battle, to her marvellous trouble and fright. And if it was not that the law must justly pass upon thee, I would strike thee through with my dagger!”*

As he spoke, Bridges laid one hand on the pommel of his knife as if he meant to do it. All the while, the frightened Wyatt could say nothing. After the Lieutenant released him, the rebel leader finally muttered that ‘it was no mystery now’ as to what was in store for him. Bridges may not kill him, but the headsman will. The rest of Wyatt’s men were roughened up too. One Cuthbert Vaughan was told by Bridges that ‘hanging, drawing, and quartering was too good for him’. Vaughan answered as Wyatt did. Yes, he had taken arms against the crown, but he was still ‘true a man to the Queen’s Majesty and the commonwealth’. As for his death, he was resigned to it. “I do not much care,” Vaughan said stoically, “I am already determined to die”.

With Wyatt taken, that left the Duke of Suffolk. But his rebellion was equally unsuccessful. He had failed to raise any support in the Midlands. Henry Grey had counted on the help of Coventry, believing that

the city would open itself to him. Instead, he found it unresponsive and on the side of Mary Tudor. The Earl of Huntingdon had reached Coventry before Suffolk and convinced its inhabitants to remain loyal to the crown, and to repel the Duke. There was more bad news for Henry Grey. The reinforcements he had summoned from Leicestershire and Warwickshire never showed up. His friends had completely abandoned him.

Alarmed, Suffolk and his band rode to the safety of his house at Astley Park. There, he quickly distributed money to his followers to make their getaways. It was then every man for himself. The Grey brothers, disguised ‘in serving men’s coats’, went in two separate directions. Thomas fled towards Wales to make way for France, while Henry and John, fearing capture on the road, concealed themselves in the surrounding forest. Perhaps when the coast was clear, they could join Thomas in exile. For days, Suffolk and his brother John lived like hounded fugitives, dependent upon a servant to bring them food and news. Either out of fear or promised a reward, the man later betrayed them by revealing their hiding places to the authorities.

Two days before the Duke was brought into the Tower, it was decided that his daughter Jane and her husband Guilford Dudley must die. They had played no part in Wyatt and Suffolk’s rebellion, but Queen Mary, believing that her reign could not be secure with them alive, allowed their previous death sentences to be carried out. On February 12, the young couple tragically ended their lives on the block, victims of their families’ ambition. The Duke of Suffolk himself went to the scaffold eleven days afterwards.

And what of Thomas Wyatt himself? On April 11, he too found himself preparing for death on Tower Hill. After making a



speech exonerating the Princess Elizabeth and the Earl of Devon of any part in his treason, Wyatt 'laid down his head, which the headsman at one stroke, took from him'.<sup>14</sup>

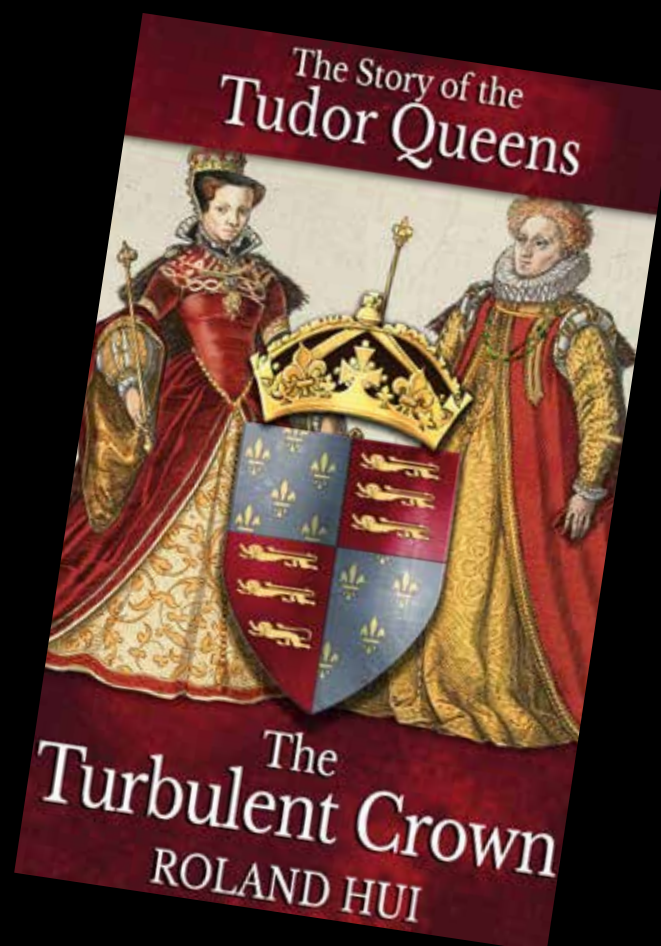
## ROLAND HUI

1. Henry Machyn, *The Diary of Henry Machyn, Citizen and Merchant Tailor of London, from A.D. 1550 to A.D. 1563*, (edited by J.G. Nichols), London: printed for The Camden Society, 1848, p. 35.
2. From a contemporary Italian letter translated by historian J. Stephan Edwards at: <http://www.somegreymatter.com/lettereengl.htm>
3. According to the will of the late Henry VIII, if his son Edward died childless, his daughter Mary would then succeed. Subsequently, in Edward's own will, Jane's mother Frances Brandon, Duchess of Suffolk, was ignored as his heir, and Jane designated as Queen.
4. *The Chronicle of Queen Jane and of Two Years of Queen Mary*, (edited by John Gough Nichols), London: The Camden Society, 1850, p. 25.
5. *The Chronicle of Queen Jane and of Two Years of Queen Mary*, p. 34-35.
6. Paul L. Hughes and James F. Larkin, *Tudor Royal Proclamations*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1969, vol. 2, p. 27.
7. John Foxe, *Acts and Monuments*, (edited by Stephen Reed Cattley), London: R.B. Seeley and W. Burnside, 1837-1841. vol. 6, pp. 414-415.
8. *The Chronicle of Queen Jane and of Two Years of Queen Mary*, p. 43.
9. *ibid.*
10. *The Chronicle of Queen Jane and of Two Years of Queen Mary*, p. 44.
11. *The Chronicle of Queen Jane and of Two Years of Queen Mary*, p. 46.
12. *The Chronicle of Queen Jane and of Two Years of Queen Mary*, p. 48.
13. *The Chronicle of Queen Jane and of Two Years of Queen Mary*, p. 53.
14. *The Chronicle of Queen Jane and of Two Years of Queen Mary*, p. 74.

**Roland Hui** received his degree in Art History from Concordia University in Canada. After completing his studies, he went on to work in Interpretive Media for California State Parks, The U.S. Forest Service, and The National Park Service

Roland has written for 'Renaissance Magazine' and regularly writes for 'Tudor Life Magazine'. He

is the author of *The Turbulent Crown: The Story of the Tudor Queens* and blogs about 16<sup>th</sup> century English art and personalities at 'Tudor Faces' ([tudorfaces.blogspot.com](http://tudorfaces.blogspot.com)).





ÆTATIS SVÆ . 41 .  
AN. D. 1593

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unrest of 1595

Given by His Descendent. Thomas William Coke *Egg*: 1804.



# 1595

## A Summer of Discontent

*Apprentice Riots in the City of London during June 1595*  
by Lauren Browne

When discussing the final decade of Elizabeth's reign, historians often refer to the 'crisis of the 1590s'. This crisis was experienced across Europe, as political instability and war effected lives across the continent. England faced famine, exacerbated by extreme weather conditions, and an exponential rise in food prices.<sup>1</sup> This was made worse by the increasing cost of its wars with Spain and Ireland, leading to heavy taxation. Domestic and foreign demand for goods fell sharply in the face of such conditions, and in turn lead to rising unemployment, particularly amongst the young. During this time the disparity between the wealthy elite and the poor became increasingly stark, and unsurprisingly led to a series of riots and rebellions across the country. London in particular became the centre of popular protest. Between 1581 and 1602, the capital experienced no fewer than 35 outbreaks of disorder, while simultaneously the population doubled in size. This rapid growth of population was the result of an influx of discharged mariners and soldiers, deserters and vagrants, as well as thousands of apprentices into the city.<sup>2</sup>

Although the main topic of this article

is the apprentice rebellion of June 1595, it certainly was not the first riot led by apprentices in London. A series of curfews were imposed upon apprentices throughout the decade, the first proclaimed in 1590. It was introduced after the Queen became aware of 'a very great outrage lately committed by some apprentices and... masterless men and vagrant persons, in and about the city of London, in assaulting of the house of Lincoln's Inn and the breaking and spoiling of diverse chambers in the said house.'<sup>3</sup> This incident led to a curfew of 9 o'clock imposed on apprentices in the city. The proclamation was reissued again the following year.

Another proclamation which specifically targeted apprentices, among other groups, was introduced shortly after an incident in June 1592. A group of feltmongers' apprentices had armed themselves with daggers and clubs and joined forces with a group of unemployed men and veterans in Southwark. The riot was sparked by the wrongful arrest of an apprentice earlier in the evening. The group had planned to storm the Marshalsea Prison and free the inmates but were stopped by the quick reaction of the mayor of London, Sir William Webb. The crowd was quickly dispersed, and the ringleaders arrested. Webb pleaded for leniency toward the

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1 Peter Clarke (ed.), *The European Crisis of the 1590s: Essays in Comparative History*, (London, 1985), pp. 3- 23.

2 Manning, *Village Revolts: Social Protest and Popular Disturbances in England, 1509-1640*, (Oxford, 1988), p. 187.

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3 'Enforcing curfews for Apprentices', *Tudor Royal Proclamations*, ed. Paul L. Hughes and James F. Larkin (New Haven, 1969), vol. iii, p. 60.



ringleaders, believing that if the wrongful arrest was rectified quickly the situation would be resolved. There was, however, suspicion that another riot was planned for Midsummer's Day and so a curfew was introduced. Playhouses, bear-baiting rings, bowling alleys, and other places of entertainment were closed until the new year, and instructions were given to the justices of the counties surrounding London to co-ordinate patrols with mayor and aldermen of the city.<sup>4</sup>

By 1595, the economic situation had grown worse and 'excessive heat, plague and flood were followed by the second of what turned out to be four disastrous harvest in row.' The rural impoverished flocked to London, joining the veteran soldiers and mariners, and unemployed youths in begging for work.<sup>5</sup>

The riots in London during this year 'constituted the most dangerous and prolonged urban uprising in England between the accession of the Tudor dynasty and the beginning of the Long Parliament.' Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of June, twelve insurrections, riots, and unlawful assemblies occurred in various parts of London.<sup>6</sup> They posed an explicit attack on the authority of the mayor, Sir John Spencer – nicknamed 'Rich' Spencer due to his great personal wealth. According to Edward Coke, the attorney-general, the apprentices sought 'to take the sworde of Aucthoryte from the magistrates and gouvernours Lawfully Aucthorised and

there vnto appointed...'<sup>7</sup>

The first incident occurred on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, when a silk-weaver appeared at Spenser's house and 'used some hard speeches in dispraise of his government.' The mayor assumed the man was mad and called for him to be committed to Bedlam.<sup>8</sup> But before the silk-weaver could be brought there, a crowd of around 300 gathered and managed to rescue him.<sup>9</sup> Further riots occurred on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> over the price of fish and butter. John Guy shows that the wholesale price of butter had risen to £2 10s. to £4 a barrel, and ling (which he describes as a common fish usually eaten by the poor) from £3 to £5 5s. a hundredweight. In the city, spectators were caught selling three large eggs for 2d, which Guy states is close to £8 today.<sup>10</sup> A number of rioters were whipped publicly for their involvement in this disturbance. Also on 12<sup>th</sup> June, anti-alien riots occurred in Southwark and other parts of the city.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> rioters focused their attention on the Counter Prison and managed to rescue a number of prisoners.<sup>11</sup> The following day, leaders of the apprentices met with discharged soldiers near St Paul's. After discussing the assassination of the mayor, the soldiers agreed to join forces with the apprentices. From this point on, the rebels grew more disciplined and their numbers grew. Another attack on the Counter Prison occurred on the 27<sup>th</sup>, leading to the arrest of twenty rioters.<sup>12</sup> In protest against the treatment of the butter and fish rioters, a crowd of 1,800 apprentices 'had pulled down the pillories in Cheapside and Leadenhall, and

4 John Guy, *Elizabeth: The Forgotten Years*, (London, 2016), pp. 192– 193.

5 *ibid.*, pp. 201– 202.

6 Manning, *Village Revolts*, p. 208.

7 National Archives, STAC 5/ A19/ 23. Incidentally, Edward Coke has the worst handwriting of anyone in the State Papers Domestic and every time I see his name come up in sources I inwardly groan.

8 Bethlem Royal Hospital. The word 'bedlam', meaning chaos or confusion, is derived from its nickname.

9 Manning, *Village Revolts*, p. 209.

10 John Guy, *Elizabeth: The Forgotten Years*, p. 201.

11 Manning, *Village Revolts*, p. 209.

12 *ibid.*, p. 209.



set up gallows against the door of the Lord Mayor, whom they would hang if he came out, but he dared not.<sup>13</sup>

On the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> June a crowd of apprentices, apparently 1,000 strong, 'marched on Tower Hill, intending to ransack gunmaker's shops' to arm themselves. They planned to plunder houses belonging to wealthy merchants, particularly foreigners, and to hang Spenser at the gallows erected outside his house. The rioters included shoemakers, girdlers, silk-weavers, and husbandmen. Also joining the apprentices were discharged soldiers and vagrants. City officers had been dispatched to pacify the crowd and were subsequently stoned by the throng. Spenser was among this group and as well as being hailed with stones, his ceremonial sword was snatched from

13 The National Archives, State Papers Domestic, SP 12/252/94.

him by his own sword-bearer. The authorities gradually managed to gain control over the crowd, and the ringleaders were apprehended.<sup>14</sup>

In the wake of such unrest, on 4<sup>th</sup> July, Elizabeth introduced martial law in London and its surroundings on an indefinite basis. According to a pamphlet apparently written by an apprentice during the aftermath of the rebellion, five leaders of the riot were quickly convicted by a jury – made up of extremely relieved property-owning citizens – and subsequently sent to the gallows to be drawn and hung.<sup>15</sup>

14 Ian W. Archer, *The Pursuit of Stability: Social Relations in Elizabethan London*, (Cambridge, 1991), pp. 1-2, Manning, *Village Revolts*, pp. 209-210, John Guy, *Elizabeth: The Forgotten Years*, pp. 202-203.

15 *A Student's Lamentation that hath sometime been in London an apprentice*, (London, 1595).

## LAUREN BROWNE

The punishment of a vagrant highlights the often-savage treatment of the poorest of the poor in Tudor England.





Robert  
Devereux,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex





## THE ESSEX REBELLION OF 1601

**R**obert Devereux was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex and Queen Elizabeth I's last favourite. They had had a tumultuous relationship over the years. On one occasion almost coming to blows. Devereux strived to fill his stepfather Robert Dudley's footsteps but the queen would never love him quite as much. She once boxed Devereux's ears for his impertinence and he was stopped from drawing his sword just in time. But Elizabeth nearly always forgave him his rash until this one last time.

Essex House became a hotbed of malcontents after the earl's return from Ireland. The young nobles of court swarmed to Devereux and planned for change. Essex had been under house arrest lately and the queen refused to talk to him or allow him back at court. If he and his men could march on Whitehall and take custody of the queen Essex thought would finally be able to talk to her and his enemies, Cecil and Raleigh, could be dealt with.

Essex's behaviour was becoming more and more erratic and he organised a special showing of Shakespeare's *Richard II*. The play depicted the deposition of a king and it sent alarm bells ringing around the Privy

Council. They could see rebellion brewing and on Saturday 7 February Essex received a summons to meet with them. He refused on the grounds he was ill and his supporters geared up to march through the city – apparently to be joined with 1000 London militia – before taking Whitehall.

On Sunday 8 February their plans were well underway when four councillors were sent to Essex House. To get to the earl they had to pass through 300 men arming themselves

for the day ahead. Lord Keeper Egerton tried to dissuade them 'I command you all upon your allegiance to lay down your weapons and to depart, which you all ought to do being thus commanded, if you be good subjects and owe that duty to the Queen which you profess'. Essex had the councillors locked inside his study – for their own

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### ON SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY

THEIR PLANS

### WERE WELL UNDERWAY

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protection he said – but just as much to get them out of the way.

Essex then strode out into the courtyard and rallied his men. They erupted through the gates but instead of heading straight for Whitehall where the queen was poorly defended they headed into the city to raise more support. The 1000 militia men that London sheriff, Thomas Smythe, had promised failed to materialise and the delay in trying to encourage people to join their mob gave the queen's men time to enter the city and draw a chain across the Lud Gate cutting the rebels off. The men gathered in Fenchurch Street waiting for direction but Essex had lost control and erratically called for food sitting down to dine in the Sheriff's house. His supporters began to leave him as a proclamation was read out denouncing the earl as a traitor.

Essex wildly shouted out into the streets for his men and those left marched with him to Gracechurch Street where the sheriff asked him to give himself up to the city authorities. It was as if he had not spoken. Essex continued to call to his men and ordered the sheriff to

follow him with his militia – the militia that did not exist.

They had nowhere to go but to turn back for Essex House but Lud Gate was now defended by pikemen and they were not letting anyone through. The earl asked for passage back to his house but Captain John Leveson refused. As a stand-off ensued an eager member of Essex's band of men fired his pistol. Chaos descended. Sir Christopher Blount, Essex's current stepfather, charged the chain and received a face wound before being knocked unconscious. Leveson ordered his men forward and Essex could do nothing but flee. A chain had been strung up across Friday Street barring their access to the river but local people raised the chain and the earl fell stumbling into the Thames to be aided into a boat. His only thought now was to return to Essex House and use the privy councillors locked in his study as hostages. If he had been thinking clearly he could have just headed for the coast and escaped.

Instead he returned home to find it surrounded by the Lord Admiral's men and his hostages - the councillors - had been released. Not only that but the whole area was

surrounded by troops loyal to the queen and cannon were being transported from the Tower. Essex slipped through them and knowing the game was nearly up burnt any incriminating documents including a letter from the king of Scotland he wore around his neck as the Lord Admiral ordered shots to be fired at the house. Sir Robert Sidney was sent to ask Essex and his remaining men to surrender. Southampton strode out onto the roof to dictate terms but there would be no bargaining with those seen as rebels. Essex agreed to surrender on three conditions; that he would have a fair trial, that he would be treated civilly after his arrest and that a priest be made available to him. Terms agreed Essex, Southampton and the others were taken into custody, first to Lambeth Palace and then to the Tower.

Essex and Southampton did not have to wait too long for their trial and on 19 February they were escorted to Westminster Hall. Both pleaded not guilty and Essex added 'I call God to witness, before Whom I hope shortly to appear, that I bear a true heart to her Majesty and my country, and have done





Essex House taken from Cassell's Illustrated History of England

nothing but that which the law of nature commanded me to do in my own defence, and which any reasonable man would have done in the like case’.

After a lengthy trial, the councillors left to consider their verdict but there really was no come back for Essex this time. His peers condemned him each saying ‘Guilty, my lord, of high treason, upon mine honour.’ The same verdict was given to Southampton who begged for mercy as Essex never would.

They were condemned to be hanged, drawn and quartered but this would be commuted to execution by axe. Elizabeth signed Essex’s death warrant on the same day of the trial.

Essex sent no apology to Elizabeth nor spoke of her. A later story told of how Elizabeth had given him a ring which if he were in dire need he should send to her and he would be forgiven. He is supposed to have passed this out of his window to a passing page boy who gave it to Lady

Nottingham who kept it to herself only telling the queen he had tried to ask for her forgiveness on her death bed.

On 25 February Essex, dressed in black, was led from his chamber to the scaffold on Tower Green, praying along the way. When Elizabeth heard the news of his death she was silent for a time then resumed playing her virginals. If she mourned the loss of her last favourite, she did not show it.



# BLOODY BATTLES OF THE WARS OF THE ROSES

The Wars of the Roses saw a number of very bloody battles, although it would be wrong to say that it was a period of constant turmoil as it saw some long periods of peace. Below are the dates of the battles in the order they took place. Fill in the location to match each date. Then answer the questions on some of the battles.

DATE OF BATTLE	BATTLE NAME
22 <sup>nd</sup> May 1455	
23 <sup>rd</sup> September 1459	
12 <sup>th</sup> October 1459	
10 <sup>th</sup> July 1460	
30 <sup>th</sup> December 1460	
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 1461	
17 <sup>th</sup> February 1461	
28 <sup>th</sup> March 1461	
29 <sup>th</sup> March 1461	
2 <sup>nd</sup> April 1464	
15 <sup>th</sup> May 1464	
26 <sup>th</sup> July 1469	
12 <sup>th</sup> March 1470	
14 <sup>th</sup> April 1471	
4 <sup>th</sup> May 1471	
22 <sup>nd</sup> August 1485	
16 <sup>th</sup> June 1487	

- Which Battle saw the death of The Earl of Warwick, The Kingmaker?
- Which location saw two battles during this period of conflict?
- Which battle saw the death of the key Lancastrians the Duke of Buckingham and the Earl of Shrewsbury?
- Which Battle saw the death of Edward of Westminster, son and heir of King Henry VI, and the capture and imprisonment of his mother, Margaret of Anjou?
- In which battle was Owen Tudor captured and executed?
- Which battle saw the Lancastrians led by Lord Audley and the Yorkists by the Earl of Salisbury?
- Location of the battle where Edward IV first became King
- Battle which saw the birth of the Tudor dynasty
- Which battle saw the capture of the Earl of Pembroke, and his execution the following day?
- The final battle of the Wars of the Roses, which took place during the reign of Henry VII

I obtained some of this information from the website of The Battlefields Trust. Their annual membership is very good value and their website is a great resource in itself.

**CATHERINE BROOKS**

Answers on page 59

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## The Burghs of Gainsborough

*Sharon Bennett Connolly*

**T**he Burgh (pronounced Borough) family of Gainsborough have a long and distinguished history. They were descended from Hubert, the son of Hubert de Burgh, first Earl of Kent and Chief Justiciar for both King John and his son Henry III, and his first wife Beatrice de Warenne, heiress of Wormegay in Norfolk. The senior Hubert de Burgh had been at the centre of politics and one of the most powerful men in the kingdom, in the first half of the 13th century. Hubert had even been married, briefly, to King John's first, discarded wife, Isabel of Gloucester, and his third wife was the Scottish princess, Margaret, daughter of William the Lion, King of Scots. The first Thomas Burgh had fought at Agincourt and married Elizabeth Percy, a co-heiress of a junior branch of the mighty Percy family, the Earls of Northumberland. It was through Elizabeth Percy that the manor house at Gainsborough came into the Burgh family, inherited from her father; she then left the estate to her son Thomas (II) Burgh on her death in 1455.

During the Wars of the Roses, Thomas (II) Burgh was a trusted Yorkist, named sheriff of Lincoln in 1460 and, later, an Esquire of the Body for King Edward IV. By the end of 1462, he had been knighted and was a member of the Privy Council. By 1464 he had married a wealthy widow Margaret, dowager Lady Botreaux and daughter of Lord Thomas Ros. It was Sir Thomas Burgh who, along with Thomas Stanley, rescued Edward IV from his imprisonment in Middleham Castle by the Earl of Warwick.





A private feud with Richard, Lord Welles, boiled over into the centre of national politics when the sacking of Burgh's newly-built manor house at Gainsborough – now known as Gainsborough Old Hall - became the opening move of Lord Welles' rebellion in 1470, which eventually saw Edward IV escaping to Flanders and the brief redemption of Henry VI. Edward IV recovered his kingdom in 1471, with the Battle of Tewkesbury, and Henry VI's mysterious death in the Tower of London just days later, putting an end to Lancastrian hopes. On Edward IV's death, Sir Thomas had initially supported the succession of his brother, Richard III, receiving further patronage and being elected a Knight of the Garter. Even so, he switched his allegiance to Henry Tudor shortly after King Richard visited the Sir Thomas's Hall at Gainsborough. What had been said to make this committed Yorkist transfer his allegiance to a Lancastrian pretender, we can only guess, but it proved to be an adept move that guaranteed

the future of the Burgh family when Richard was defeated at Bosworth in 1485, and Henry Tudor became King Henry VII.

On the accession of Henry VII, Thomas was confirmed in his positions as a Knight of the Body and Privy Councillor and in 1487 was created Baron Gainsborough, but the title appears to have died with him. Thomas died in 1496 and was succeeded, only as Lord Burgh, by his son Edward, who married Anne Cobham, daughter of Sir Thomas, 5th Baron Cobham of Starborough, when he was 13 and she was just 9 years old. Although he won his knighthood fighting for Henry VII at the Battle of Stoke Field in 1487 and was a Member of Parliament for Lincoln in 1492, Edward appears to have been less politically capable than his father. He soon fell foul of King Henry VII. The cause is unclear, although it may be that he associated with those the king distrusted, or he was demonstrating the early signs of mental illness.





In December 1496, Edward was forced into a legal bond where he was obliged to present himself to the king wherever and whenever it was demanded, and to vow to do his subjects no harm.<sup>1</sup> He was even remanded to the custody of the Lord Chamberlain and had to seek royal permission if he wanted to leave court for any reason. For a time, he was incarcerated in the Fleet Prison but managed to escape, despite his promise and financial guarantee not to; an action which put him in thousands of pounds of debt to the king.

It appears that Edward had inherited a mental illness from his mother, Margaret Ros. At this distance of time, it is impossible to diagnose his exact affliction, but it was an ailment which ran within the Ros family and affected not only Edward but also his Ros cousins, Sir George Tailboys and Lord Ros of Hamlake. As a result, in 1509, 'distracted of memorie', he was declared a lunatic.<sup>2</sup> His wife, Lady Anne, died in 1526 and he died in 1528, never completely recovering his wits, despite

some lucid moments. He was succeeded as Lord Burgh by his son, Thomas (III).

In 1496, aged just 8-years-old, Thomas (III) had married Agnes Tyrwhitt. The marriage had been arranged by his grandfather, Thomas (II) and gave the younger Thomas useful contacts within Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, contacts he would need to counteract the damaging effects of his father's mental illness and royal disfavour. Thomas (III) pursued a dual career, combining service as a justice of the peace in Lindsey with his service at court. In 1513 he was knighted on the battlefield of Flodden, the same field on which James IV of Scotland met his death. He was Sheriff of Lincoln in 1518-19 and 1524-25 and in 1529 he was created Baron Burgh of Gainsborough, the title last held by his grandfather. In 1533 Thomas was appointed Lord Chamberlain to Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn; he rode in the queen's



barge on her coronation day and held the middle of the queen's train at her coronation. In what must have been a more onerous task, Thomas was also one of the twenty-six peers who sat at Anne's trial in 1536.

Thomas (III) and his wife had as many as 12 children. The eldest of whom was Edward, who died in 1533. It was this Edward who was the first husband of Katherine Parr, Henry VIII's sixth and last queen. The marriage had been arranged in 1529 by Sir Thomas and Katherine's widowed mother, Maud Parr; her husband, Thomas Parr of Kendal, had died in 1517. Maud had taken it upon herself to arrange her daughter's future. After a failed proposal to marry Katherine to Henry Scrope, the son of Lord Scrope of Bolton, due to the prospective groom's lack of enthusiasm, Maud turned to another of her late husband's relatives and arranged for Katherine to marry Edward.

It has often been said that Edward was a man much older in years than Katherine. However, this story has arisen from a case of mistaken identity by Katherine's early biographers, who appear to have assumed that she was married to Edward Lord Burgh, the grandfather of her actual husband,

Edward Burgh. In fact, Katherine and Edward were close in age to each other. Katherine was 17 at the time of the marriage and Edward was in his early twenties.

The early marital bliss of the young couple was marred by the violent outbursts and wild rages for which Sir Thomas had now become renowned (possibly due to the inherited mental instability in the family). The baron had a tyrannical control over his family which caused Katherine's mother to intervene on her daughter's behalf. The first two years of the marriage, which was spent at Sir Thomas's Hall at Gainsborough – now called Gainsborough Old Hall - was a miserable time for Katherine. She wrote, regularly, to her mother of her unhappiness and it seems the situation was only resolved following a visit by Maud Parr, who persuaded Sir Thomas to allow Edward and Katherine to move to their own, smaller, house at Kirton-in-Lindsey.

We do not know whether Edward was a sickly individual (he may have inherited his grandfather's mental illness), or if he succumbed to a sudden illness, but their happiness was short-lived, as he died in the spring of 1533. Having no children, Katherine was left with little from the marriage, and, with her mother having died the previous year and her siblings in no position to assist her, she was virtually alone in the world. It was possibly as a remedy to her isolation that Katherine married her second husband, John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, who was twenty years her senior, in 1534. There is no record that Katherine served any of Henry VIII's queens. Her first appearance at court seems to be in 1542, when she became a lady-in-waiting in Mary Tudor's household before she caught the King's eye and marrying him in July 1543.

Katherine was not the only woman of the Tudor period to experience the turmoil of life with the Burgh family. She did, however, come out of it in a much better position than her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Owen. Elizabeth had been married to Edward's younger brother, Thomas. The second son of Thomas (III) Burgh and Agnes Tyrwhitt,



the younger Thomas died in 1542, aged around 30, leaving Elizabeth a widow with young children.

This tragedy was further amplified in 1543 when Elizabeth was thrown out by her domineering father-in-law, who accused her of adultery during her husband's lifetime. Lord Burgh obtained a private Act of Parliament in which Elizabeth's children by Thomas Burgh were declared illegitimate and deprived of their inheritance.

Probably remembering her own experiences of Sir Thomas Burgh, poor Elizabeth was helped by the Queen, Katherine Parr, who paid a pension from her own purse to her former sister-in-law. Although, it does appear that Thomas had a partial change of heart before his death in 1550, as his will included a bequest for '700 marks towards the preferment and marriage of Margaret, daughter of Dame Elizabeth Burgh, late wife to Sir Thomas my son, deceased ...'<sup>3</sup>

Sir Thomas, Baron Burgh of Gainsborough, was eventually succeeded by his third surviving son, William, born in the early 1520s. He married Katherine Fiennes de Clinton, daughter of Edward Fiennes de Clinton – the future Earl of Lincoln – and Elizabeth (Bessie) Blount, a former mistress of Henry VIII and mother of the king's illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond and

**About the author:** Sharon Bennett Connolly is the author of 2 non-fiction books; *Heroines of the Medieval World* and *Silk and the Sword: The Women of the Norman Conquest*. Her 3rd book, *Ladies of Magna Carta: Women of Influence in Thirteenth Century England* will be published in 2020.

Somerset. William was in turn succeeded by Thomas (IV) Burgh, who served Queen Elizabeth I as Governor of Brill in the Netherlands. Heavily in debt and with failing health, he died in 1597 to be succeeded by his 3-year-old son Robert. Young Robert died at the age of 8 in 1602, whilst in the care of the bishop of Winchester, thus ending this line of the Burgh dynasty; the title Baron Burgh of Gainsborough became extinct.

**Footnotes:** <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> & <sup>3</sup> *Gainsborough Old Hall*, Extended Guide Book by Sue Allen

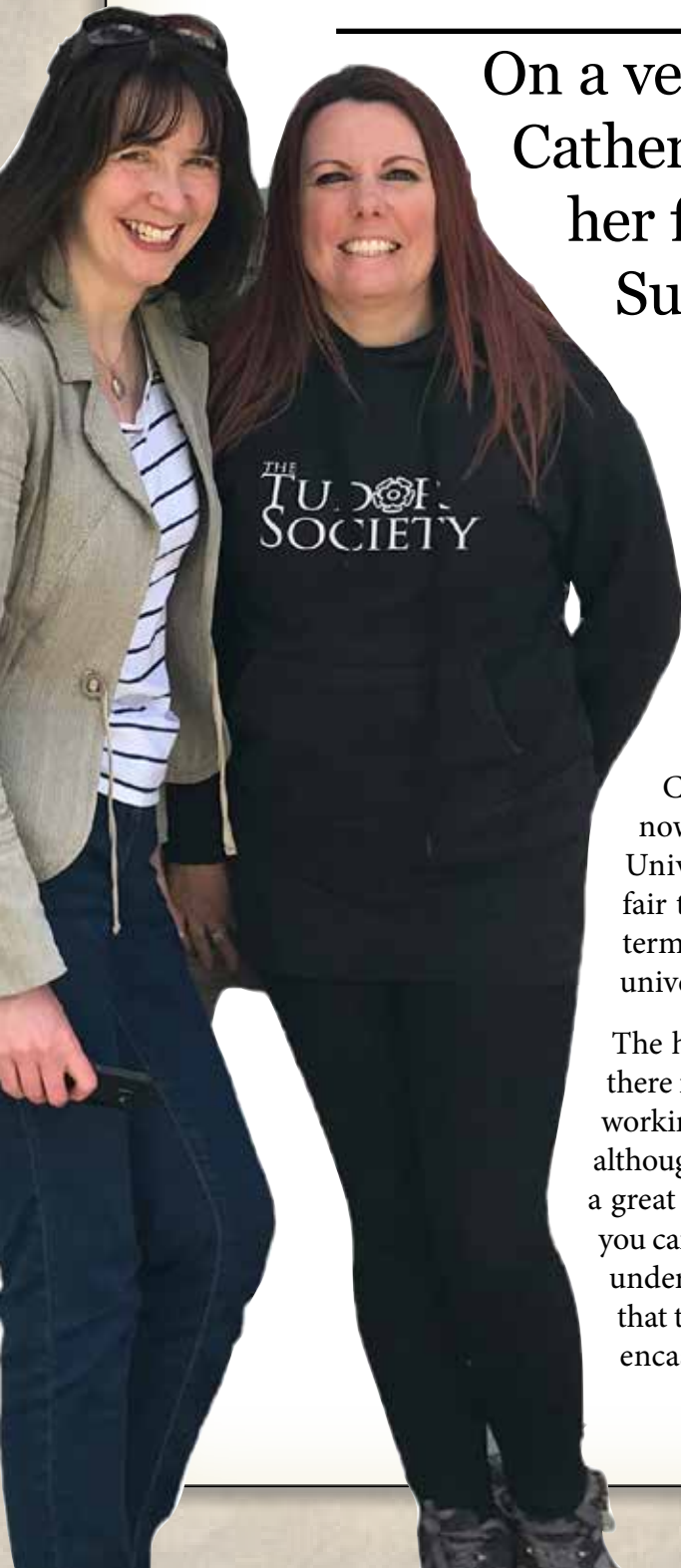
Images: 1,2 and 3 - views of Gainsborough Old Hall, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, taken by Sharon Bennett Connolly, December 2019;

4 - Arms of Sir Thomas Burgh, at the time of his installation as a knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, courtesy of Wikipedia;

5 – anonymous portrait of Katherine Parr, now in the National Portrait Gallery, courtesy of Wikipedia

Sources: *Gainsborough Old Hall*, Extended *Guide Book* by Sue Allen; *In Bed with the Tudors* by Amy Licence; *oxforddnb.com*; *The Life and Times of Henry VIII* by Robert Lacey; *England Under the Tudors* by Arthur D Innes; *The Earlier Tudors 1513-1558* by JD Mackie; *Elizabeth's Women* by Tracy Borman; *Henry VIII: King and Court* by Alison Weir; *In the Footsteps of the Six Wives of Henry VIII* by Sarah Morris and Natalie Grueninger; *Ladies-in-Waiting: Women who Served at the Tudor Court* by Victoria Sylvia Evans; *The Life and Times of Henry VII* by Neville Williams; *The Six Wives and Many Mistresses of Henry VIII: The Women's Stories* by Amy Licence; *Tudorplace.com*; *John Leland's itinerary in England and Wales 1535-43* edited by L Toulmin Smith (1906-10); *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the Reign of Henry VIII 1509-47* edited by JS Brewer, James Gairdner and RH Brodie, HMSO London 1862-1932; *Privy Purse Expenses of King Henry VIII from November MDXIX to December MDXXXII* edited by Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas 1827.

# Visit to Christ Church, Oxford



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On a very chilly November day, Catherine Brooks met up with her friend Kirsty Saul from Sudeley Castle. They were very excited as they were waiting for a tour of Christ Church in Oxford...

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Christ Church is the largest of 38 (recently 39 but two have now merged) colleges that make up the prestigious Oxford University and it takes a little over 500 students. It is only fair to say that the architecture is breath-taking, and whilst in terms of size the college isn't as sprawling as many colleges and universities, its splendour makes it far more noteworthy.

The history of the college is extensive and for us visiting today there is so much to see, experience and learn. It is of course still a working college, with all the everyday functions of a university so although you can visit and there are tours (the self-guided ones are a great idea), there are of course only certain areas of the college you can explore. We met Jim, the Verger, at Tom Gate, which leads under Tom Tower and into Tom Quad, the largest of the quads that the layout of the college is built around. Tom is the huge bell encased in Tom Tower, which traditionally was rung to mark



curfew for the students. If you look at Tom Tower from inside the quad, you can see a change in the style of the architecture from just above the clock. This was added in 1682, designed by none other than Christopher Wren. But as Tudor lovers, we have moved ahead too far here in time. For Christ Church as a college was born of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey.

Around 1150-1210, St Frideswide's Priory was constructed by Augustinian monks, more correctly known as Canons. In 1523, at the height of his power, Wolsey decided he wanted to found a college at Oxford, to be called Cardinal's College. The following year he requested permission from Pope Clement VII for St Frideswide's Priory to be closed and then it became the chapel of Cardinal College.

Work has been done and buildings added over time, naturally. But Tom Quad was Wolsey's inspiration. It is the largest quadrangle in all the Oxford Colleges measuring 264 by 261 feet and was originally known as the Great Quadrangle until the Great Tom was installed. The Cardinal had grandiose plans for this quadrangle (as he did with all his building projects), but many were never fulfilled. He fell from grace in 1529 after failing to secure a divorce between his Sovereign and his wife, Catherine of Aragon.

Wolsey only in fact lived to see three sides of the quad completed, and the north side remained open, just a low wall, for over a hundred years. As Jim was telling this he asked us 'So what do you call a three sided quad?' Confused is my best answer to date. The cloisters were also never completed. You can see from the photographs the arches that stretch around the quadrangle where they should have been, probably stretching the width of the walkway. This would've made the quad seem a lot smaller. Apparently, this would have been the longest cloister in Europe, and it surprises me that when Henry VIII acquired it that he did not complete it. He was known for his love of building and was also generally a massive show off.

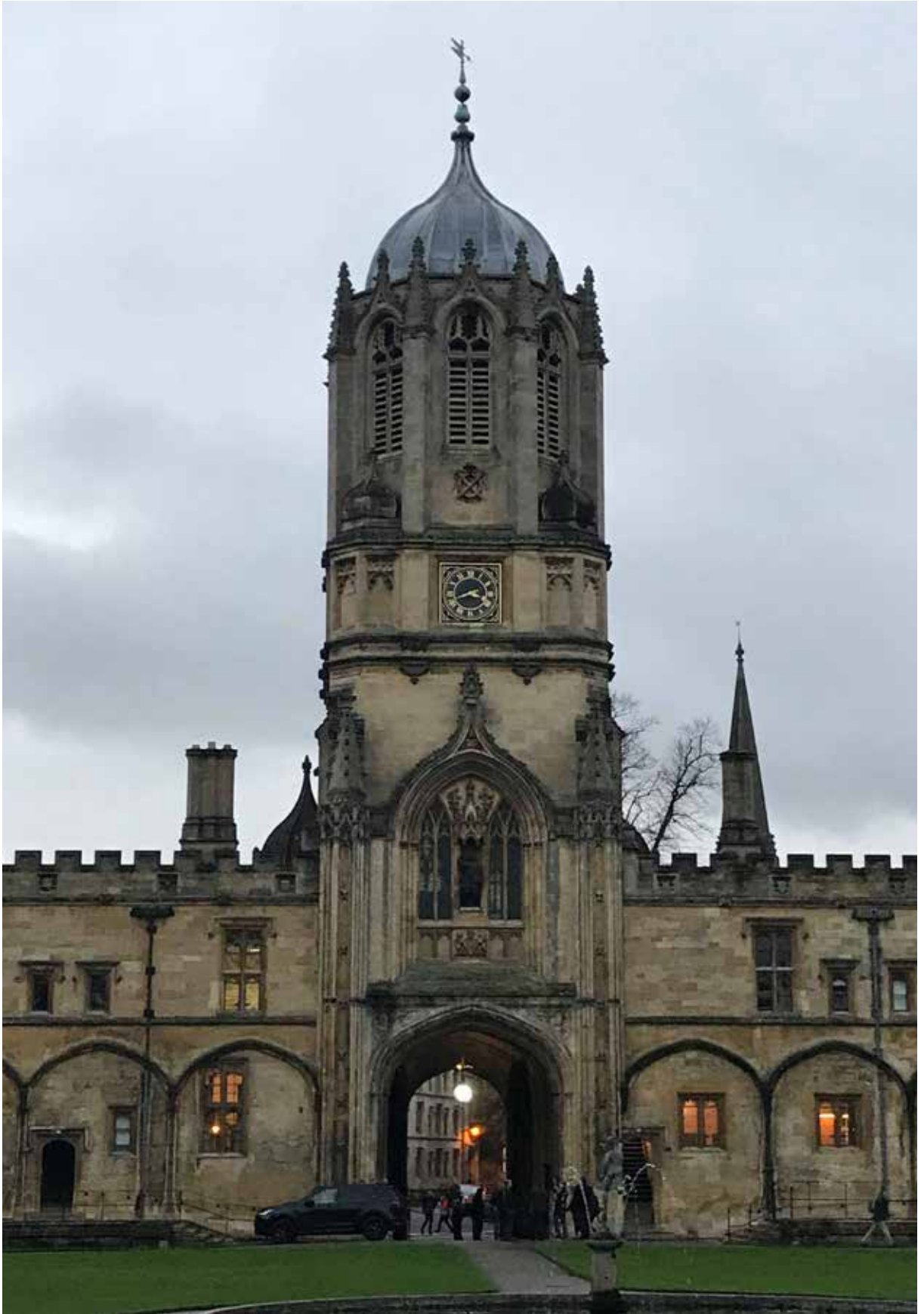
The cloister that exists is part of the St. Frideswides priory and is Gothic in style. Steps lead from the cloister to a wide stone staircase, which Harry

Potter fans may recognise as it was featured in 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' (also Sorcerer's Stone), where Professor McGonagall stood at the top and said to the first years 'Welcome to Hogwarts'. As you reach the top of the stairs, you arrive at The Hall.

The hall was at times thought to have been used as the Great Hall in the Harry Potter films. This is not the case, but it was based on the Hall at Christ Church. The actual set of the Great Hall can be visited at 'The Warner Bros. Studio Tour: The Making of Harry Potter' in Leavesdon, where all the filming was centred (on a personal note I can highly recommend this for Potter fans). Although completed in the year of his death so he barely saw it, the architecture is all Wolsey. Aside from the windows being altered and roof repair from fire damage in 1720, it remains his, and he spent a fortune on it. The windows were mostly heraldic, as you would expect, but are now plain glass except for the two notable remaining ones: You can see Wolsey's arms under a red Cardinal's hat and Henry VIII's arms too.

Nowadays the hall is still used to serve three meals a day to the students. It may also be used during events and conferences. It has three tables instead of four, but you can see how the Great Hall of Hogwarts was designed with this in mind. It is simply stunning and such a warm, calm and inviting space, bursting with tradition. Naturally, the ceiling is extremely high and stained glass runs along the sides of hall; well out of reach, but contributing to the sense of magnificence of its environment. Portraits adorn the walls, filling all available space, but we see at the far end, above the High Table, the omnipotent figure of Henry VIII himself. To his left we see his daughter, Elizabeth I, and to his right, Cardinal Wolsey. You can see how the size of Henry's portrait over Wolsey's despite it being in the midst of Wolsey's architectural achievement, denotes the supremacy of the monarch.

To prepare hundreds of meals a day you need a massive kitchen. And Christ Church has a massive kitchen. It was completed in 1526, 40 feet square and 60 feet high. The kitchen was built away from the main building in case of fire. Jim took



The bell tower that houses Old Tom



us down the secluded stairwell for the first of two extra treats we were honoured to receive – a look into the kitchen! It was so well organised and immaculate! It was strange to see the mix of modern equipment such as fridges and freezers fitted into the enormous fire places that once housed the spits. A kitchen that has been efficient and busy for almost 500 years is truly an incredible thing.

From here we went back outside and headed for Peckwater Quad (the third quad being Blue Boar), to visit the Library. What an indulgence for any book lover! I remember both my university libraries and they shared nothing of the scholarly atmospheric grandness I found here. The ground floor consists of two reading rooms, one on either side of the entrance hall. This is where the students can be found, but here we got our second treat – we were given permission to go to the Upper Library.

Almost 150 feet in length, the Upper Library holds a staggering 40,000 books. These were donated, often from collections on the owner's deaths. This library is the sixth largest holder of early printed volumes in the U.K. There are several hundred medieval manuscripts and over one hundred printed before 1501 which I now know are called incunabula. These have facilitated a huge amount of research over the years. The books are guarded by sensors and manuscripts can only be viewed by appointment and with special permission. The room was spacious, bright and airy and had the agreeable smell of old books!

The icing on the cake here was a Cardinal's hat of some age, kept under glass and protected from the light, which may very well have belonged to Cardinal Wolsey himself.

After we left the library, I was momentarily confused as a Christmas tree that was easily 30+ feet tall had been erected in the middle of the quad whilst we'd been in there. We then headed for the Cathedral, where we thanked Jim for his wonderful tour and hospitality and exchanged our farewells.

The Cathedral plays a unique role, stemming from its dual foundation. It is, as any other Cathedral, the mother church of its Diocese (Oxford), but it is the college chapel too. The academic Dean of the College is also the Dean of the Cathedral. It is, as you would expect, stunning. There are very few spaces I find as calming and beautiful as a Cathedral. I was less surprised at the appearance of an enormous tree this time and the staff member we spoke to explained that decorating for the festive period had begun in earnest as the Carol Concert was that evening. We were delighted that the organist was practising the carols and we were able to enjoy them.

In 1525 the church that had once been the priory became the college chapel of Wolsey's Cardinal's College. When Wolsey fell, he fell hard. The college was incomplete but was handed to the crown and in 1532 Henry re-founded it as King Henry VIII's College. However, the Reformation and abolition of the Roman Catholic Church led to Henry re-founding it yet again in 1546. Now it was no longer just a college, but a Cathedral. It feels fitting though that its coat of arms remains crowned by a tasselled cardinal's hat.

There is simply so much more I could tell you about this incredible place. I have only really written on the Tudor history of Christ Church, but even then there are still details to be told. In this time I have not even scratched the surface of the rest of its history and everyday life. We were welcomed so kindly by everyone we met and both Kirsty and I will remain forever grateful for the honours bestowed on us during our short visit. There is so much more to learn and explore and we will definitely be back in the summer.

I must give special credit to Jim for some of the extra snippets of information and the facts and figures he shared with us. The remaining information here was obtained from the 'Christ Church Oxford – A Brief History and Guide'

**CATHERINE BROOKS**

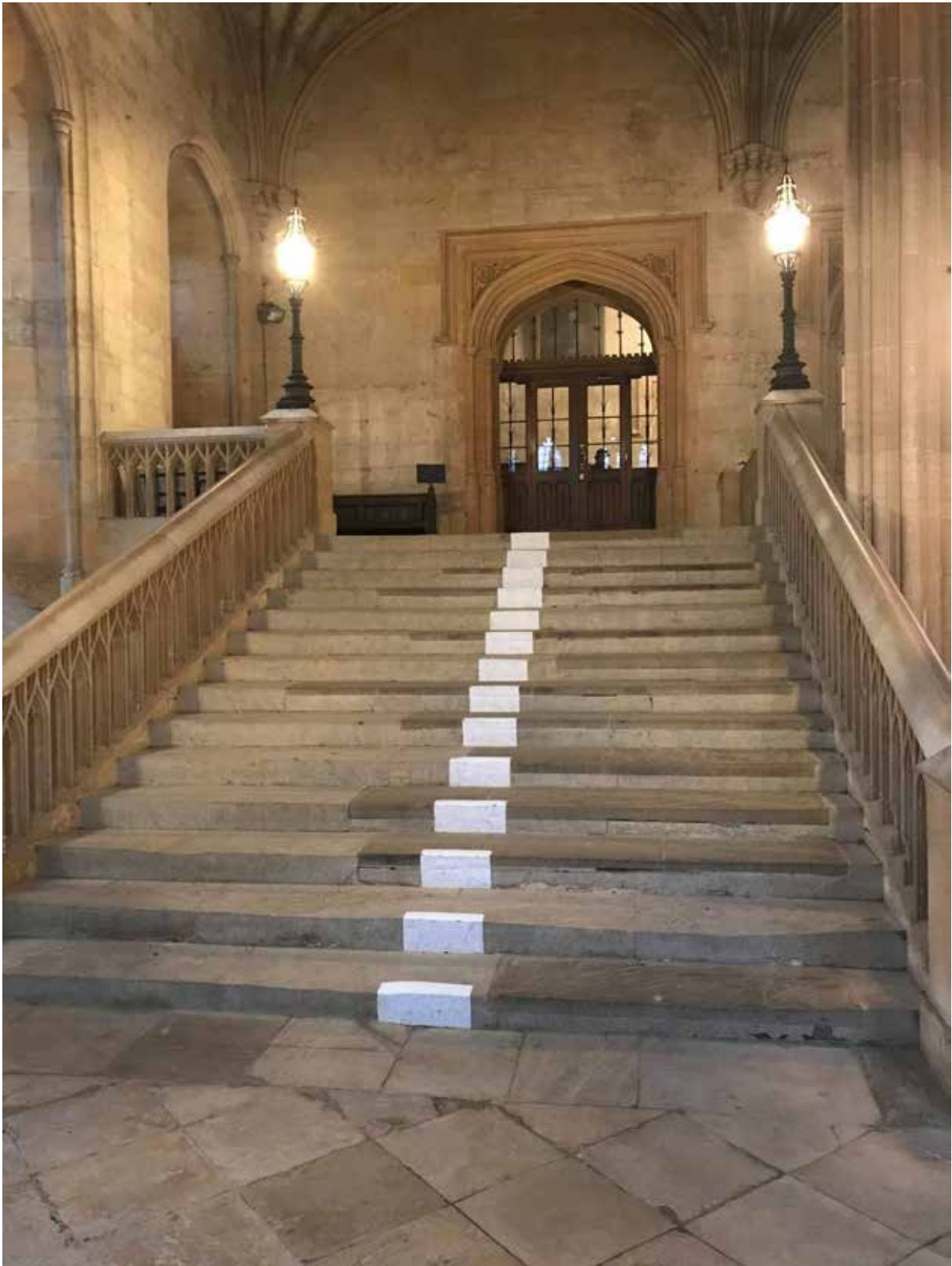


Inside Tom Quad, facing the entrance



Portraits in the Great Hall





The “Harry Potter” Staircase



A portrait of Thomas Wolsey





Tables in the Great Hall



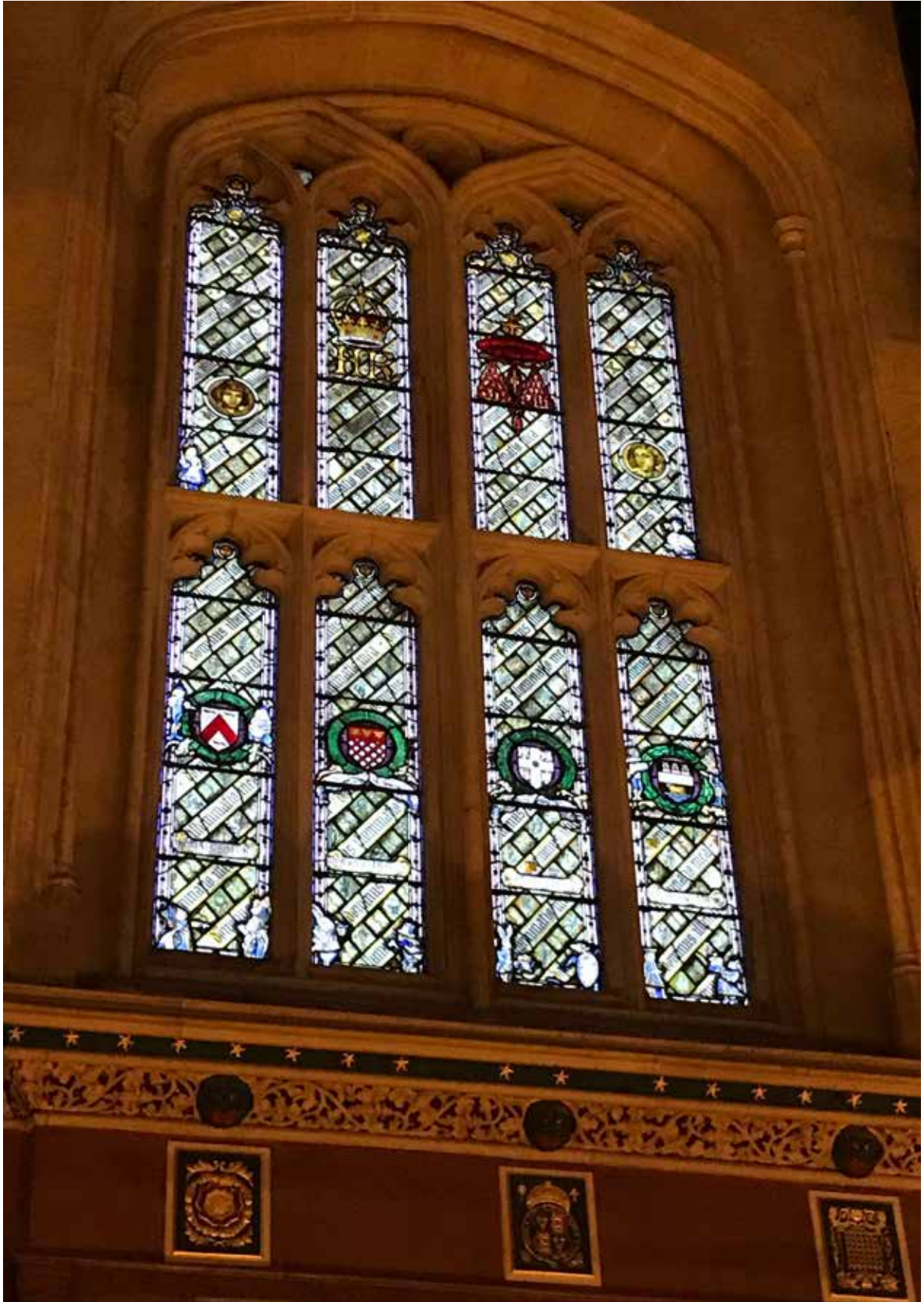
A fireplace





A view from the Cathedral entrance



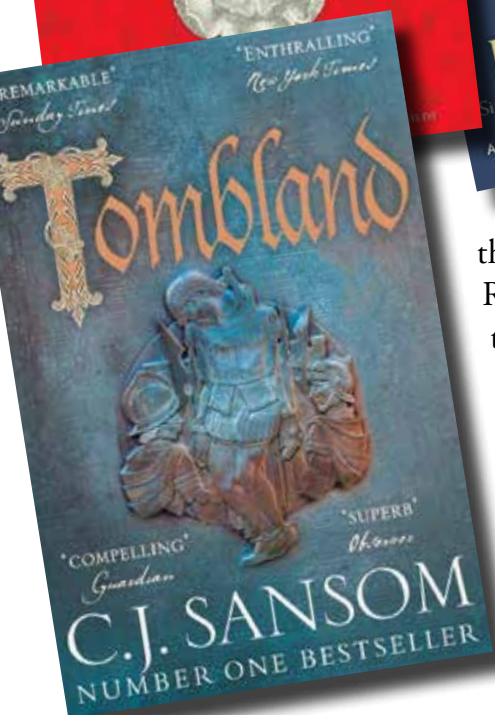
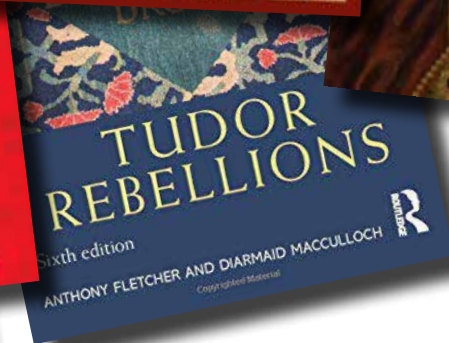
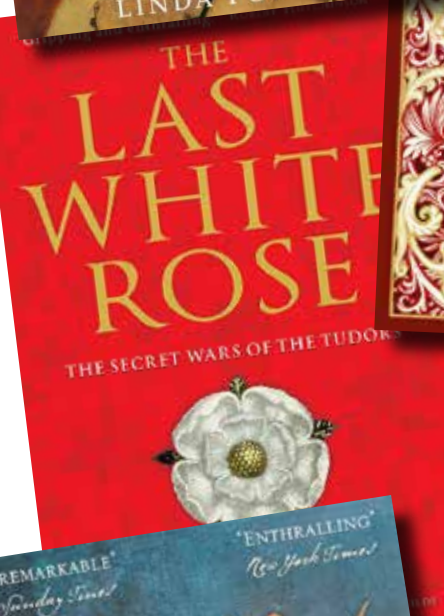
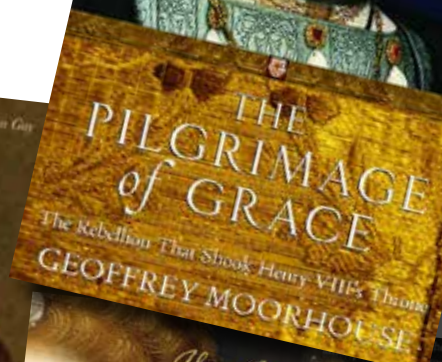
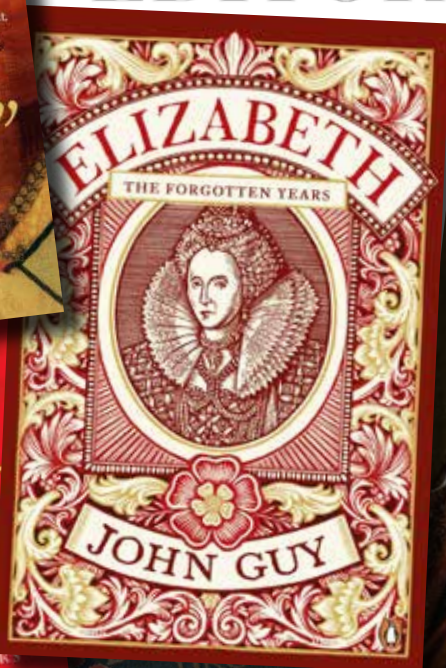
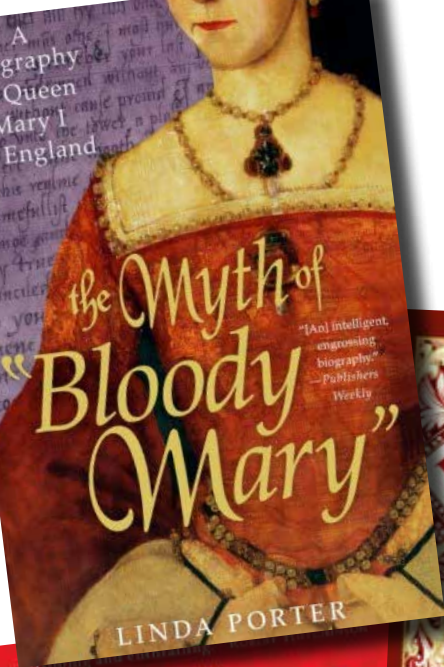


Stained glass window in the Great Hall



# Tudor Life

## EDITOR'S PICKS



For the earlier rebellions against the Tudors, try Desmond Seward's "The Last White Rose" and Geoffrey Moorhouse's "The Pilgrimage of Grace," for the great traditionalist uprising of 1536. Eric Ives's biography of Lady Jane Grey is a great window into the crises that beset the mid-Tudor regimes, while Linda Porter's on Mary I is thrillingly readable, especially in her discussion of the rebellions of the 1550s. On unrest at the end of the Tudor era, I cannot recommend highly enough Leanda de Lisle's "After Elizabeth" and John Guy's "Elizabeth: The Forgotten Years". (Published in the US as "Elizabeth: The Later Years".)

To those seeking an academic analysis of the rebellions, I can recommend the "Tudor Rebellions" in the Seminar Studies, edited by Diarmaid MacCulloch and Anthony Fletcher.

For the drama of Tudor uprisings in fiction, C. J. Sansom's latest novel "Tombland" uses Kett's rebellion against Edward VI as its backdrop, going into sympathetic detail after the central character meets the insurrection's leaders. The 2003 mini-series "Henry VIII" features the Pilgrimage of Grace in greater detail than most modern dramatisations, with Robert Aske played by Sean Bean. Two BBC series from the 1970s – "The Shadow of the Tower" and "Elizabeth R" – dramatise insurrections from the Royal Family's perspective. In the former's case, several episodes go into depth about the Yorkist pretenders, while the final episode of "Elizabeth R" depicts the Essex uprising as the act of a spoiled megalomaniac against a wise, but fading, queen.



# THE TUDOR SOCIETY



## *Members' Bulletin*

Hello!

This month I'd like to welcome Georgia Whitehead who has joined the Tudor Society team as a regular writer for the website. Georgia has a masters degree in Classics from the University of Edinburgh and we have her researching and writing about important Tudor people for the website. Georgia is part of the new generation of historians and we love that she's so eager to fill in the blanks!

On a related note, the Tudor Life team want to ask if you have done any Tudor related things that you would like to share with us? We often have a "member's spotlight" feature where we put pictures, articles and research from our members. So, if you've written a book, visited a site, read something fascinating or done really anything to do with the Tudors, please share with us and we'd be thrilled to have you as our spotlight. You can email any thoughts and ideas to [info@tudorsociety.com](mailto:info@tudorsociety.com) and we look forward to hearing more about what you've been up to.

Together we will help to make the Tudor Society grow, and continue to share information and knowledge about our favourite British royal dynasty.

**Tim Ridgway**



# **A RIGHT ROYAL ROMANCE**

## **Valentine's Day with the Tudors**

February Half Term Activities at The Mary Rose

The Mary Rose, Portsmouth

**Friday 14th– Sunday 23rd February 2020**

**11:00 – 15:00, Daily**



Portsmouth's The Mary Rose is delighted to announce its programme of activities this February Half Term, celebrating Valentine's Day. From 14th February to 23rd February 2020, Shipwreck Explorers: Royal Romance invites visitors to celebrate Valentine's with a Tudor twist. Visitors can practice their calligraphy, make petal pomanders and discover the Tudor language of love – from King Henry VIII himself! During rendezvous throughout each day, Henry VIII will regale audiences with stories from his six marriages.

These educational and immersive activities will also include the Shipwreck Explorers trail, inviting children to find treasure chests hidden around the museum and win their very own limited-edition Tudor Rose pop-badge. History lovers can enjoy learning about The Mary Rose's collection of unique and amazingly well preserved objects, and romantic couples can step back in time and celebrate a Valentine's Day in 16th-century style.

Calligraphy sessions will teach visitors all about the art of Tudor handwriting, as they use an ink pot and quill to pen their own love letters in the style of Henry VIII's courtiers. Plus, visitors can compare the tools they use in these sessions with the original items of Tudor writing equipment on display in the museum!

Visitors will also be able to make their own heart-shaped petal pomanders. Made using dried lavender and rose petals, these scented accessories were popular in Tudor times, and would make the perfect Valentine's gift!

Josephine Payter-Harris, Guest Experience Manager at The Mary Rose, said 'It's fantastic to bring traditional Tudor activities and skills to life by adding them to the museum experience. They're always a big hit with visitors!'





TONI MOUNT

# SUMPTUARY LAWS

Put simply, Sumptuary Laws were legal acts, first introduced in the fourteenth century, with the sole purpose of averting the chaos caused by people of lower rank dressing above their status. To us, this may sound like nonsense in an age when, if you can afford a designer label, fine: go ahead and wear it. We also take for granted the barging and the elbows in the ribs; characteristics of rush hour commuting. But let's think back to a time when few commuted farther than a couple of streets away to their place of work and what we accept as normal rush hour behaviour would probably have resulted in the militia being called out to quell the riot. In the Tudor era, it just wasn't done to put your head down and plough your way to work, regardless of your fellows on the street. There were rules of etiquette to be observed by everyone. And that's when sumptuary laws are needed.

The way people conducted themselves when out and about was determined by their status. Everybody made way for the king. If you were on horseback, you took your beast off the road to allow the king to pass, unhindered, removing your headwear and bowing. If on foot, you

also got out of the way, took off your cap and bent the knee to your sovereign. In fact, you were required to make way for everyone who was your social superior and those below your status would step aside for you and doff their hats. In theory. But how could you tell who was where on the social ladder in relation to you? If every Tom, Dick and Prince Hal wore silks, velvets and ermine, dyed deep (royal) blue, crimson or imperial purple, the entire system collapsed. That was why it mattered so much what you wore, how you dressed and the reason sumptuary laws existed.

Back in the fourteenth century, the first raft of sumptuary legislation was passed at the request of various nobles who – to their great disgust – saw merchants on the streets of London who were more richly dressed than they were. Humble folk, in confusion, were stepping aside for these merchants and doing them greater courtesy than the less finely clothed lords. This was insupportable. Breeding outweighed wealth, the lords complained, and it wasn't their fault that the more successful merchants could afford a better wardrobe than theirs. The later fourteenth



## TONI MOUNT

century being hard times for nobles, what with their rent-paying tenants and waged labourers dying of plague and the survivors demanding lower rents and better pay, the lords were not so impressively attired as before.

But there were a number of problems in trying to enforce these laws. For one thing, styles were ever changing and, rather as today's legislation struggles to keep up with technological innovations, sumptuary laws couldn't keep abreast of novel fashions and the introduction of new foreign textiles. This meant that the laws had to be constantly revised through the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Secondly, if prominent citizens could afford to buy satins and furs, equally, the fines imposed for breaking the dress code weren't going to put them off. In fact, the laws were ignored, more often than they were observed. And thirdly, whose job was it to act as fashion police?

The answer to this question was likely to lead to some amusing situations because the laws were supposed to be enforced, quite literally, by the neighbourhood watch. Let's hear about Jane whose husband wants to impress his fellow citizens of London by having her attend church on Sunday, clad in a fine new gown. The gown is made of camlet, an expensive imported textile, a mix of silk and linen, and it's trimmed with black sable fur from Russia. What is more, such fine fabric deserves a high quality dye, in this case crimson, either from the costly kermes insect of eastern Europe or the even brighter cochineal beetles, imported at great expense from Mexico. Since her husband is a wealthy member of the



Too much satin – a foreign imported textile

Fishmongers' Guild he can afford it, but by no means do he and Jane qualify to wear such clothes under the sumptuary laws.

No matter. Jane wears her new gown to church and everyone admires it, except her neighbour, Alice, who is green with envy. After church, Alice goes to the sheriff and reports that her fellow parishioner is dressing far above her status. That afternoon, the sheriff visits Jane, demands that she hands the offending gown over to him and her husband must pay a fine of sixpence. The money goes into the city coffers but what about the gown? That is given to Alice as her reward for having reported Jane, even though Alice's husband is only a cutler and, therefore, she is no more entitled to wear it than Jane. Yet the following Sunday, Alice wears the gown of crimson camlet to

## TONI MOUNT

church. Jane reports her to the sheriff; the sheriff gets another sixpence in the coffers and Jane gets her gown back to wear next week. And so on...

In Henry VIII's reign, new laws were passed, termed Acts of Apparel, in 1509/10, 1514, 1515 and 1533. England wasn't the only place with sumptuary laws; Europe had similar ideas but whereas their regulations tended to be drawn up by and applied only to individual towns and cities, England's laws came from Parliament and applied throughout the country, in theory, anyway.

According to the 1509/10 *Act against Wearing of Costly Apparel*, only the king, the queen, the king's mother (the act must have been first drawn up before Margaret Beaufort died in June 1509), along with the king's brothers and sisters could wear cloth of purple silk or gold, while dukes and marquises could only use cloth of gold as linings of their coats and doublets. An earl and those of higher rank could wear sable fur, but those below could not. Certain imported furs could be worn by royal grooms and pages, university graduates, yeomen and landowners whose estates brought in an income of at least £11 *per annum*. Barons and knights of the Order of the Garter (the highest ranking knights) were permitted to wear woollen textiles manufactured abroad but, for those of lesser status, it was a crime to wear imported cloth. The same applied to wearing cloth dyed with the most expensive crimson and blue dyes.

Anyone who wasn't a lord's son, a government servant or a gentleman with an income from land of at least £100 *per annum* was forbidden to



Too much crimson dye?

wear velvet, satin or damask, although, if their land was worth £20 or more, satin, damask or camlet could be used to line or trim their clothing but not for the main, visible body of the garment. The problem was, as it had been in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, more and more successful merchants were becoming richer than the aristocracy. Inter-marriage made matters even more complex. The nobility wanted to share in mercantile wealth and merchants yearned for titles and high status. The solution was for a lord's penniless second and untitled son to wed the daughter of a rich merchant but where would their offspring stand on the social ladder? The children wouldn't be the sons and daughters of a lord and



## TONI MOUNT

yet they could now afford to live in greater opulence than their paternal relatives who still had titles. No wonder the laws were flouted.

An additional oddity concerned the way wealth was judged. Annual income from land was always regarded as having greater status than the same monetary income gained from trade. The sumptuary laws passed in the reign of King Edward III, in 1363, equated a landowner worth £200 a year to a merchant worth £1,000. These relative values were still maintained throughout the Tudor period. There was another problem that became more acute in Henry VIII's reign: that of people – and courtiers were some of the worst offenders – vying with their peers to be the most fashionable and expensively dressed and running up huge debts in the process. This situation led to *An Acte for Reformacyon of Excesse in Apparayle being* passed in 1533:

*Where before this tyme dyvers laws ordyn'nces and statutes have ben with greate delibacion and advyse provided established and devised, for the necessaire repressing avoiding and expelling of the inordinate excesse dailie more and more used in the sumptuous and costly araye and apparel accustomedly worne in this Realme, whereof hath ensued and dailie do chaunce suche sundrie high and notable inconveniences as to be the greate manifest an notorious detriment of the common Weale, the subvercion of good and politike order in knowledge and distinction of people according to their estates p[re]emyences dignities and degrees,*



Tudor housewife – her customary dress now enshrined in law

*and to the utter impoverysshement and undoyng of many inexpert and light persones inclined to pride moder of all vices; which good Lawes notwithstanding, the oulteragious excesse therin is rather from tyme to tyme increased than diminysshed, eyther by the occacion of the perverse and frowarde manners and usage of people, of for that errours and abuses ones rooted and taken into long custome be not facile and at ones without some moderacion for a tyme relinquished and reformed.*

Despite the declaration that these laws were intended to avoid the 'notorious detriment of the common weal', i.e.

everyone, the legislation was aimed, as usual, at morally 'light persons inclined to pride (mother of all vices)'. They reiterated earlier attempts to mark out prostitutes from respectable women. Edward III's and Edward IV's sumptuary laws of 1363 and 1462 had insisted that women in the sex trade should wear unlined striped hoods and this was repeated:

*'Comyn strompetes sholde were raye hodis'. The 1462 version also stipulated that such women should not wear aprons since these were the housewife's badge of respectability. It was also the custom that a married woman must cover her hair – a 'loose' woman, i.e. one wearing her hair loose and uncovered was of easy virtue and up to no good. But 1533 saw the customs of what was considered respectable attire enshrined in law for the first time.*

Occasionally, sumptuary laws were passed because of other issues. For example, in 1543, there was a serious outbreak of some kind of disease among cattle in and around London, so the common council introduced legislation to limit the consumption of meat at mayoral feasts and not just of beef. To ensure the beef wasn't simply replaced by an extravaganza of other costly foodstuffs, the number of courses at any feast was to be limited, depending on the status of those at the table:

*the lord mayor should not have more than seven dishes at dinner or supper; aldermen and sheriffs were limited to six, the sword-bearer to four and the mayor's and sheriffs' officers*



An excess of Tudor cloth of gold

*to three, with a fine of 40s for every extra dish. Beside this, they were prohibited from buying swan, crane or bustard, to be fined 20s for any such bird served.*

At some point in Henry VIII's reign, the fishermen of Grimsby had more fish than they could sell so they sent a plea to the king. This resulted in an extra sumptuary law making Saturdays fish-only days, in addition to Wednesdays and Fridays, so the men of Grimsby's catch didn't go to waste. An excess of wool production led to an Act of Parliament in 1571, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to boost the sales of English woollen cloth. It became law that on Sundays and every official holiday all males over six years of age, except for the nobility and persons



# TONI MOUNT

of degree, were to wear woollen caps on pain of a fine of three farthings ( $\frac{3}{4}$  of a penny) per day. Whether it worked or not in practice, the act was repealed in 1597.

In June 1574, Elizabeth issued the following statute from Greenwich Palace:

*The excess of apparel and the superfluity of unnecessary foreign wares thereto belonging... is grown by sufferance to such an extremity that the manifest decay of the whole realm generally is like to follow (by bringing into the realm such superfluities of silks, cloth of gold, silver, and other most vain devices of so great cost for the quantity thereof as of necessity the moneys and treasure of the realm is and must be yearly conveyed out of the same to answer the said excess) but also the undoing of a great number of young gentlemen and others seeking by show of apparel to be esteemed as gentlemen, who, allured by the vain show of those things, do not only*

*consume themselves, their goods, and lands which their parents left unto them, but also run into such debts as they cannot live out of danger of laws without attempting unlawful acts...*

The frequency of acts and the huge number of laws passed proves that the authorities were losing the fight to preserve social distinctions, the attempt to maintain morals and ethics, preserve the English economy against foreign imports and restrain the excesses of fashion. However, a good many of the various sumptuary laws, dating back to as early as the fourteenth century, were still on the English statute books as recently as the 1800s and, who knows, some may as yet remain? Am I a loose woman because I didn't wear a head-covering to the supermarket this morning? Could my husband be fined for wearing his favourite royal blue jumper? And we ate steak and kidney pie, not fish, on Saturday!

TONI MOUNT



# Charlie

## A BOOK OF SECRETS

Kate Morrison

# Book Reviews



In recent years, there has been more focus on Tudor England's relationship with other countries, in particular ones like Africa, and how involved people really were in slavery and how people of other races were treated. This has largely been down to the new studies done on those aboard the Mary Rose and has resulted in a new historical fiction book examining the topic further. One such book is *A Book of Secrets* by Kate Morrison, an historical fiction work that follows the story of a girl called Susan who was born in Guinea and bought as a slave, along with her mother. They end up in England after their original slave owners were killed and become servants to a lord, who turns out to be a Catholic in Elizabeth I's England, at a time where it was becoming increasingly dangerous. It is an interesting premise and one that Morrison executes well.

The author shows a new way of looking at Tudor England and it is fascinating to see how Susan is treated by those around her. She is already treated as less than others due to being a woman, with even those close to her questioning why she would want to act alone and not marry, with one memorable quote being by a man who tells her that *"I am offering you feathers for your nest and you spit at me and go to line it with thorns you have plucked yourself"*. On top of that, she is treated worse still as she is a foreigner:

*'Since I was born, other people have given me names and told me who and what I am. A stranger, a Blackamoor, a little labour-in-vain, a good wife, a whore. I don't remember*

*my father or my mother and I knew almost nothing about the land of my birth when I was growing up. That has left me with a strange weightlessness, like the swifts that stay on the wing their whole lives.'*

It is interesting to see how people they lived back then, as well as how slavery was different in England. It was not legally enforceable in England and many African people married into English families, but the status of those brought over as slaves was still questionable. However, it was still better than other countries at the time, with Spain and Portugal treating people far worse.

It is evidence that a lot of research has gone into this book, with much detail into the workings of the Catholics underground and the workings of an illegal printing press. Despite all the research obviously gone into this book, it is easy to read and keeps the reader's attention well.

*A Book of Secrets* is now one of my favourite historical fiction books; it is so inventive and different to those already out there. It kept my interest throughout and also taught me a lot about black people in Tudor England. The characters were engaging and the plot taking unexpected twists and keeping me on my toes. I would recommend this to anyone interested in Tudor England and wanting a good new historical fiction book to read. Kate Morrison is certainly an author to keep an eye on and I will definitely be picking up whatever book she writes next.





# FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PRINCES IN THE TOWER

Andrew Beattie



Recently Pen and Sword Publishing have been releasing a new series of books called 'Following in the

Footsteps' in which they look at the places notable historical figures visited. One of the first books in the series is *Following in the Footsteps of the Princes in the Tower* by Andrew Beattie. This one is on the Princes in the Tower, an interesting topic to choose, seeing as they probably did not live past childhood and there is very little documented about their lives.

The author writes about the background history of the palaces and places the Princes visited, as well as how they are connected to them. There are also many pictures of the places, as well as a couple of maps at the beginning of the book, but no floor plans of the palaces.

There is more information on the elder of the two princes, Edward, as he lived longer and travelled more than Richard:

*'In contrast to Edward, whose permanent household from the age of 3 was on the Welsh borders and who travelled extensively around Southeast England and the Midlands, Richard of Shrewsbury's upbringing seems to have mainly confined him to London, and specifically to the Palace of Westminster.'*

Edward was the heir to the throne, so that makes sense, and this book gives some good insight into how the two were brought up differently and prepared for their expected roles as adults.

The book includes many quotes from multiple sources, including historical fiction like Philippa Gregory's *The White Queen* novel, which is a bit odd and does undermine the credibility of the book. It feels it is just used as filler most of the time, as there is not a huge amount you can say about the two boys.

Interestingly the book also includes a brief section on Lambert Simnel (who had claimed to be both Prince Richard and Edward, Earl of York, at one point) and Perkin Warbeck. It is only brief but it is good that they get an acknowledgement, as many believed they were the younger of the two boys, even if it seems unlikely now.

*Following in the Footsteps of the Princes in the Tower* is an okay book but not the best book on the subject of the two boys. It is a difficult subject to write about, especially if you are just looking at the places they visited, and it shows in how many quotes from odd sources the author uses. I am not sure whom I would recommend this book to, as it does not fit into either biography or travel guide.

CHARLIE FENTON





## *Author Interview*

# BOSWORTH AND MUCH MORE

*This month's interview is with author, lecturer, and Specialist History Tour Guide Mike Ingram MA, who I had the pleasure of meeting at Bosworth in August 2019. He has written three books and regularly writes for a number of history magazines. He is the Chair of Northamptonshire Battlefield Society and a Trustee of Naseby Battlefield Project.*

**Hello Mike and thank you so much for joining us here at The Tudor Society. First of all, please could you tell our members a little about yourself?**

I come from a long line of soldiers stretching back at least five generations. I began my career as a defence journalist and photographer, travelling the world, but after the Berlin Wall came down, I had to look elsewhere. Instead I carved out a successful career in marketing, but the call of the history was too strong and returned to researching and writing around ten years ago. I haven't looked back since. I have an MA in history from the University of Birmingham and qualified to teach history in adult education. Today, as well as the books and tours, I write for a variety of magazines such as Medieval Warfare and the NeneQuirer, writing articles on local history for the later. In addition, I am a frequent guest on local radio, talking about historical subjects. I am also a trustee, the lead historian and guide for the Naseby Battlefield Project. In 2014 I was awarded a community star award for my work protecting the 1460



## *Author Interview*

battlefield and in 2016 was awarded the Battlefields Trust Presidents Award for outstanding battlefield protection and interpretation.

**I think you are most well-known for your work on medieval history. What especially draws you to that period?**

I have always had an interest in the medieval period right back to when I was young and played with toy knights. Eventually I became a defence journalist and one day I went on a tour of Delapré Abbey and its grounds in Northampton – the site of the 1460 battle. The guide, with a sweeping arm movement said the battle was that way but no more. I knew there had to be more. So, I began to study the battle. However, to understand the battle fully, I found I needed to know more about the Wars of the Roses and medieval life in general, and it grew from there.

**I have here your most recent book ‘Richard III and the Battle of Bosworth (from Retinue to Regiment)’. This is an impressively detailed work which uses contemporary sources, focusing on not just the battle but the early lives of these two kings, plots against Richard, the impact of English and European ways of war on how Bosworth was fought, and most intriguingly, the impact of the interference from France on the battlefield at Bosworth. There is SO much to this book that I hardly know where to start! But let’s look at how and why you began this project.**

**You had written a book on Bosworth previously, entitled ‘Battle Story: Bosworth 1485’. Do you feel your new book takes the story a lot further?**

When I was commissioned to write the first book back in 2011, I was given a limited number of words and a tight deadline. In the first book I presented my theory of how the battle unfolded based on the archaeology and contemporary sources but had little space for more. I felt that to fully understand the battle, it was essential to understand the men and events behind the battle. In addition, my initial research threw out many more questions and there were many things that did not quite make sense. So, I continued my research and when Helion commissioned me to write the book, I jumped at the chance and answered those questions.

## *Author Interview*

**I know you won't want to give any huge spoilers, but there are a few things that people will be itching to read. One of them is the new explanation for Richard's very sudden execution of William Hastings. The lack of explanation for Richard's actions here seems historically not to have done his reputation a great deal of favours. Would you say that was accurate? And are you now in a good position to challenge that?**

Hastings execution was one of the things that didn't make sense. It was so out of character from what I understood of Richard. And, this chapter in history, albeit mostly written in Tudor chronicles etc, did not help his reputation. So, instead of looking towards Richard and the Princes for answers, I focussed my attention on all the others present in the meeting and why they were there. After all, the main council meeting was being held elsewhere, so they had to have been isolated from the others for a reason. What I discovered surprised and shocked me. So yes, I believe I have found a very plausible explanation for what really happened.

**The book also discusses the long-standing feud between Richard and the Stanley family. The Stanleys are often seen as a family who hedged their bets throughout the Wars of the Roses, to always find a way to be on the 'winning side'.**

**As a result, combined with the argument that Thomas Stanley was married to Henry Tudor's mother, Margaret Beaufort, the defeat of Richard's Army is often attributed to the choices made by Thomas at the Battle of Bosworth. Was this this them merely hedging their bets, or was it a pre-calculated move?**

It was in the 18<sup>th</sup> century that the idea that the Stanley's were fence sitters first appeared, generally based on the theories that the battle was fought on Ambion Hill that emerged around the same time. However, an examination of all the contemporary sources clearly show they were actively involved in the plot from the start. Those same sources suggest that there was a plan put in place whilst Henry was still in France for the Stanley's to join Henry once he landed in Wales. William appears to have been Henry's rear guard and Thomas the advance guard once Henry was in England. In fact, it was



## *Author Interview*

probably Thomas Stanley who chose the battlefield, as he arrived in the area of the battle three days before Henry.

**We all know of Henry's exile to Brittany, then France, but you have included in your book a whole chapter dedicated to the French influence over some of the key figures in the Wars of the Roses and how this too helped to shape the final outcome at Bosworth and the rise of the Tudor dynasty. Could you please give an outline of how King Louis XI's daughter Anne of Beaujeu was able to do this?**

To answer this, we need to look at what was happening in France. Louis XI was dead, and his young son Charles VIII was the new king. Anne wanted to be regent and so did Louis d'Orléans, the first Prince of the Blood. So, what we have is a very similar situation to what had happened in England in 1483. After a failed coup by d'Orléans, a civil war, later known as the 'Mad War' between Anne and Louis' forces began. At the same time a coalition of England, Burgundy, Brittany and Louis' forces were gathering to invade France. Anne first contains Louis; she then backs a coup in Brittany by Breton dissidents. Finally, she gives Henry around 2,000 of her 'rapid reaction force' from Pont de l'Arche to invade England. It was these were professional fighting men of considerable experience who turned the tide in favour of Henry at Bosworth.

**How did you go about undertaking your research for this book?**

When I first developed my theories as to what happened in 1485 for my first book on the battle, I refused to read any modern accounts and walked around the battlefield multiple times armed only with all the contemporary accounts and maps of the archaeology, until I understood how the two matched up with the actual landscape, which then revealed a new account of how the battle unfolded. Some accounts such as Virgil were written in several versions, so where possible I tracked them back to the original manuscript version and found small but significant differences. In addition, the Stanley poems which did not make sense when it was believed the battle was fought on Ambion Hill, have become far more pertinent and important. Then of course, there was the French accounts which gave a very different complexion to the events

## *Author Interview*

surrounding the battle. I am however convinced that there is still more to be found deep in French archives.

**With family trees, an incredibly useful timeline, a section dedicated to weaponry, colour plates, the Order of Battle, where the battle site is, step-by-step maps and much more, it is no surprise that your book has been described by Bosworth's Eddie Smallwood as the 'ultimate' book on Bosworth. That is praise indeed and you must be very proud!**

Yes, I am proud, but a lot of credit must go to the publishers Helion, for allowing me to write the book how I wanted, for the superb artworks and maps as well as the quality of their production. Also, the questions from all those people who had previously been on tours around Bosworth with me, helped to shape the book. It was their questions that prompted the timeline and family trees for example.

**You have also written a book entitled 'The Battle of Northampton 1460' and you are the chair of Northamptonshire Battlefield Society. How did you become interested in this and become involved in the Society?**

Several years ago, there was a concerted attempt to develop the Northampton 1460 battlefield. It needed local protection, so I founded Northampton Battlefield Society to do just that. Once we had saved the battlefield, we recognised that the battle was still relatively unknown, and its importance overlooked. Having already done the research, it was comparatively easy to write the story of the battle. As most of Northamptonshire's battlefields and its historical importance has been generally ignored, we decided to rename the society Northamptonshire Battlefield Society.

We noticed that the Northampton Queen Eleanor Cross, which overlooks the 1460 battlefield was rapidly deteriorating and close to collapse, so the society launched a four-year long campaign to save it. In April 2019, work finally began on its conservation. Our next project was the Battle of Edgcote, again relatively unknown but very important. The society's secretary, Graham Evans has written an excellent new book on the battle. We also organised a daylong conference on the battle and built a model of the battlefield. Today NBS has around 70 fully paid up members and holds 10 talks by nationally



## *Author Interview*

known speakers each year. We have many more supporters on Facebook. In the spring Graham and I will be publishing a book on all the battles in the county – from Romans to the Civil War, and like both the 1460 book and the Edgcote book, all the income will go to the society.

**You also run a tour company and have recently released a new set of tour dates for medieval tours of Northampton.**

**What do your tours encompass?**

Northampton has a fascinating history and many nationally important events took place there. However, most of its medieval sites, including its walls and massive castle have been torn down. All that is left are some stunning medieval churches and the market square, the largest and oldest fully enclosed market square in England – and even that is now under threat. The history has largely been forgotten and is constantly ignored by the powers that be. So, I really set up Northampton Tours so I could tell the story of the towns medieval history and point out where things were and what happened, to as many people as possible. The once per month tours are often full and booking in advance is recommended. I am also planning to give occasional tours of Fotheringhay in 2020.

In addition, I lead tours around battlefields such as Northampton, Bosworth, Stoke and Naseby for other organisations such as the army and the Battlefields Trust. In March 2020, I will be leading a special tour of Bosworth as part of a Bosworth Study day for my publishers, Helion. I also lead three-day historical tours for a commercial company called Travel Editions. 2020 tours for them include Richard III, Cromwell, Medieval Suffolk, and the Gunpowder Plot.

**INTERVIEW BY CATHERINE BROOKS**

**You can find out about Mike and his Tours at [www.mikeingramhistorian.weebly.com](http://www.mikeingramhistorian.weebly.com).**

**He is also on Twitter: @sunray22, Instagram: [mike.ingram.history](https://www.instagram.com/mike.ingram.history) and Facebook: Mike Ingram. He also runs groups on Facebook that you may be interested in following: ‘Northamptonshire Battlefields Society’, ‘Save Our Queen Eleanor’s Cross’ and ‘Northamptonshire Mythbusters’.**

**His books are all available on Amazon and from selected retailers.**



## WENDY J. DUNN ON WRITING

### *Are we there yet? Never.*

“Art is never finished, only abandoned.”  
- Leonardo da Vinci.

My dear reader/writer,

This column aims to add to my last month’s discussion about the drafting process. There is always a lot of agony and ecstasy involved in writing – especially for a serious writer. As I am indeed a serious writer, there is also a lot of agony and ecstasy involved in critiquing my own work. Days dedicated to critiquing are very different to my days of ‘surrendering to writing’. When the writing flows, those days of complete surrender can be so magical I forget I am even typing. I’m “there,” with my characters, experiencing what they are experiencing. That is the connection I always seek while writing. If I connect to my characters and story, then the chances are higher my readers will, too.

Those magical days of connection and creation are what keep me writing. Afterwards, I walk on air because the magic has happened again. I’ve time travelled to another place and time, and my characters have opened up their world to me. When I re-read my work, escaping again into the world I have created through my imagination, I am reassured all is going well. Of course, there are other moments when I am kicked out of my world-building through the jolt

of bad and/or awkward writing. Then I have to figure out what is wrong – and how to change awkward/bad writing into easy reading. I also re-discover in these times the truth of that well known saying: easy reading is hard writing. So often, I find the only way to clear away the awkwardness is by cutting my words to the quick. That means asking myself: ‘What am I trying to say? Is it important? How do I re-write it so it sings?’

I now realise (well and truly realise) I use critiquing as an excuse to stop me moving forward in my work. So, I try hard to avoid it until the story is really taking shape. This practice of leaving critiquing to weeks after writing a new section of a new novel also helps me to critique my work. When I come back to the work, I view it through far more objective eyes. I see better than what is working, and not working. Let me give you a few examples. *Falling Pomegranate Seeds: All Manner of Things*, my new Tudor novel, started out in omniscient third person. I wasn’t too happy with that decision. My novel explores relationships between women, so I knew needed a closer point of view. But first drafts need to be done, and I prodded away until I neared the 10,000-word mark. At that



point, the light bulb moment happened. I realised Maria de Salinas, a character in this new story and Katherine of Aragon's lifelong friend, offered the perfect narrator for my new novel. So, I rewrote the draft through Maria's point of view and I continued on.

All my published novels have turned out to be very different creations to what they were in their first or even second drafts. *The Light in the Labyrinth* began its life with an angel narrator introducing each chapter. I killed my angel by the time I reached draft three because I faced the fact it served as a writerly indulgence. I enjoyed giving voice to my angel, but it was not a good writerly decision for my story.

Let me show you what I mean. Here's a taste of the original draft of *The Light in the Labyrinth* with the angel voice:

Where did all the love go? asks the Queen. I hear it now – a desperate cry of grief and abandonment. And there is Kate – desperate, too, desperate for hope, desperate for security and a life she could make sense of – rather than to exist in chaos – the chaos of flux.

I see her watching – snatching hope from any sign that the King still cares for her aunt. In the days to come, there seems to Kate many signs. The welcome the King gives to her when the Queen returned to his side. But she does not see what I see. Angels know to their grief the hearts of the living.

What ended up published:

Aunt Nan pealed with laughter. "Win his love? Did I ask for his love when the King first looked my way? Nay, not with the example of your mother before me." Her mouth trembled, and she stroked the sleeping puppy. "The more I tried to show my disinterest, the more he wanted me." Her lips tightened. "Aye, Jane is well-coached. She also shows her disinterest. He cannot see it is but an act, while with me..." Stroking the dog, she smiled sadly, her face reflective. "The King—your father—was in his glory then—strong and tall, so handsome—a god amongst men.

"We shared so many interests—books,



music, the hunt— how we loved to race our horses back to court. When night fell, it was dance after dance. He wrote beautiful letters.” Bitterness edged her laughter. “A man who hated writing wrote letters to me; he wrote songs and poetry—all to me. About me. He said I held his heart—he sang I held his heart—that he adored me, that he was mine, forever, forever, forever. I was young. How could I resist him? I believed him when he said he loved me. Can I be blamed for giving him my heart? Now, I find it was only I who spoke true when I vowed I would daily prove my love.” She lifted a face wet with tears. “And now he calls me a witch? A witch.” She covered her face with her hands. “Oh Harry! Where did love go?”

*Falling Pomegranate Seeds: The Duty of Daughters* was originally written in a child’s first person POV. I had written over 100,000 words when I faced the fact the child’s point of view was not working. *The Duty of Daughters* was an adult novel calling for an adult point of view. I had another light bulb moment. I realised I had to rewrite the whole book through Beatriz Galindo’s point of view. But I could not face dismantling *The Duty of Daughters* at that time. It was easier to apply to do a creative PhD and work on a new novel, *The Light in the Labyrinth*, for my PhD artefact. I needed time to grieve over the failure of the original version.

All these decisions came about because, whilst I always respect known history and use it to frame my stories, I am firstly a storyteller. History is the key opening the door to my imagination, and to the story I create, but also a story informed by history.

So – is Da Vinci right in saying Art s never finished? In one sense, yes. Writers could always return to their work and do more. But if you want your work published, then there comes a time when you have to let that work go so it has a chance to gain publication, and gain readership.

So – what do I look for when I am critiquing the second, third and fourth drafts of my work? Below are a few of the things I ask myself when I am writing a novel:

**Title** – does it work for or against the piece of writing? Does it aptly suggest/reflect/hint at the story theme(s)?

**Hook** – does the story grab the reader from the first sentence? First paragraph? Does “the hook” make a reader want to keep on reading? Is it the right hook for this story?

**Voice** - Does it engage the reader? Is it the fitting “voice” to carry the story to the very end?

**POV** - Is point of view used correctly?

**Mix** - Is there the right mix of telling and showing?

**Active** - Is the writing active rather than passive?

**Connection** - Does the writing reverberate in the ways you want when you read it back to yourself?

**Suitability** - Does the writing/word choice suit the intended audience?

**Clarity** - Is it clear who the intended audience is?

**Repetition** - Are there any words over-used?

**Professionalism** - Is word choice rendered in a “writerly” way?

**Redundancy** – has the writer already said this in the story? Has a word choice/sentence construction created a redundancy?

**Editing** - Is the story in need of more editing?

**Reading** - Have I taken the time to read out loud my work?

I do hope that this helps you with your writing!

Until next time,

**WENDY J. DUNN**



# Henry VII and Richard III

## A deadly Rivalry

Expert  
talk by  
Dr Sean  
Cunningham

THE  
TUDOR  
SOCIETY

22<sup>nd</sup> May 1455 (1st Battle of St Albans)  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 1459 (Blore Heath)  
12<sup>th</sup> October 1459 (Ludford Bridge)  
10<sup>th</sup> July 1460 (Northampton)  
30<sup>th</sup> December 1460 (Wakefield)  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 1461 (Mortimers Cross)  
17<sup>th</sup> February 1461 (2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of St Albans)  
28<sup>th</sup> March 1461 (Ferrybridge)  
29<sup>th</sup> March 1461 (Towton)  
2<sup>nd</sup> April 1464 (Hedgeley Moor)  
15<sup>th</sup> May 1464 (Hexham)  
26<sup>th</sup> July 1469 (Edgcote Moor)  
12<sup>th</sup> March 1470 (Losecote Field)  
14<sup>th</sup> April 1471 (Barnet)  
4<sup>th</sup> May 1471 (Tewkesbury)  
22<sup>nd</sup> August 1485 (Bosworth)  
16<sup>th</sup> June 1487 (Stoke)

Which Battle saw the death of The Earl of Warwick, The Kingmaker? (Barnet)  
Which location saw two battles during this period of conflict? (St Albans)  
Which battle saw the death of the key Lancastrians the Duke of Buckingham and the Earl of Shewsbury? (Northampton)  
Which Battle saw the death of Edward of Westminster, son and heir of King Henry VI, and the capture and imprisonment of his mother, Margaret of Anjou? (Tewkesbury)  
In which battle was Owen Tudor captured and executed? (Mortimers Cross)  
Which battle saw the Lancastrians led by Lord Audley and the Yorkists by the Earl of Salisbury? (Blore Heath)  
Location of the battle where Edward IV first became King (Towton)  
Battle which saw the birth of the Tudor dynasty (Bosworth)  
Which battle saw the capture of the Earl of Pembroke, and his execution the following day? (Edgcote)  
The final battle of the Wars of the Roses, which took place during the reign of Henry VII (Stoke Field)



# FROM THE SPICERY


WITH  
RIOGNACH



## ON CORDIALS

L-R: Blood Orange and Cardamom Sekanjabin (filtered); Rose, Clove and Cinnamon Sekanjabin (unfiltered, ~3 days old), Lemon Balm and Kaffir Lime Sekanjabin (unfiltered, 2 days old). Photos © Riognach O'Geraghty





**IMAGINE FOR A** moment that you are attending a great feast. A feast so magnificent that every noble in the Realm has fought for an invitation to. You're so excited! Your dress is the latest in fashion from Venice, while the gentlemen are sartorially excellent in their appearance. Expensive and opulent jewels seem to be on every finger, wrist, neck and ear.

But there's a problem; one of the 9-month variety, and prohibits you from drinking your host's excellent wine, ales and ciders, while you daren't drink the water. So what could you drink that was 'safe' for you and the child you carry? The answer: non-alcoholic cordials.

(Yes, I know that the dangers of the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy are a relatively modern concept, and I am guilty of using that particular strategy as an introduction to this article. Mea Cupla).

So what is a medieval cordial? According to existing resources (of which there are many), a cordial is a liquor flavoured with various aromatic substances, usually sweetened with honey. The use of sugar comes later. The earliest known recipes for European cordials were first produced in continental apothecaries during the early 1300's. Cordials could be distilled, or the ingredients were allowed to steep in sugar or honey-based syrups. Regardless of whether you choose to infuse your fruits, flowers or spices, in a syrup, or in alcohol, the processes are all accepted as being used in the Middle Ages.

Cordials first appeared in England during the late 1400s and were marketed to the masses as distilled water cordials, and cure-alls. Due to a large amount of alcohol and the dubious herbal ingredients in some cordials, these 'medicines' were prescribed in small doses; lest they over invigorated the body and mind of the patient. Cordials were used in early medicine, to rebalance the body's natural heat and to settle the stomach; especially after overindulging. It was also believed that certain cordials had potent aphrodisiac qualities. Given the sexual prudishness of the time, such cordials may have been quaffed with reckless abandonment by the upper classes.

By far the most easily recognisable European non-alcoholic cordial is Elderflower cordial. This is made by steeping the gorgeous white flower heads in an enclosed glass container with sugar syrup. The jar is well sealed and left to sit and do its thing for several weeks. A word to the wise; NEVER use the



leaves of the elderberry for they are horribly bitter; unlike the sweet, honey-scented elderflower blossoms.

Sekanjabin is an ancient Middle Eastern non-alcoholic cordial and is incredibly simple to make. Sekanjabin was much touted as something of a medicinal cornucopia and is mentioned several times in The Law of Medicine. I have been making Sekanjabin for several years now. Sekanjabin can be a delightful and cooling drink during the Australian summer. It can also help if you're feeling a little under the weather.

I use a straightforward recipe to make a basic Sekanjabin.

I start by making a syrup from 2 cups of white sugar, and 2 cups of rainwater (I can't stand the taste of South Australian tap water). I place the sugar and water in a heavy bottom pot and put it on medium heat, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Then I cover the pot and reduce the heat to a gentle boil for between 10-15 minutes. When the 15 minutes has passed, I add 1/2 a cup of white wine vinegar, cover and allow syrup to simmer for another 25-30 minutes, or until the liquid thickens. At this point, you can carefully taste the syrup (using a non-metal spoon please!), and adjust the levels of sweet and sourness. I usually add another 1/2 cup of white wine vinegar as I prefer tart flavours.

Now you can play with flavours! Once you've determined that the right level of sweet and sourness is present, remove the pot from the heat, and add in a small handful of washed mint leaves to the syrup. I prefer peppermint or Moroccan mint, but if bog-standard garden mint works for you, use it! Wait until the pot and syrup have cooled to room temperature before removing the mint, and pour the syrup into a sealed jar to be placed into the fridge. Other flavour combinations I've used have been blood orange and cardamon, Seville orange, rose petal (preferably from richly scented red roses), and lemon and ginger. Should you decide to use blood orange, Seville orange, rose petals or lemon and ginger; please keep them in the syrup in a sealed jar in the fridge for 3-4 days before decanting off. Doing this brings out the best colours and makes the most of the essential oils in the fruits and petals.

Sekanjabin is best served cold in cold water with ice, or as an addition to white wine, champagne, vodka and gin. How strong you like it is up to you; some like a single shot glass of Sekanjabin to a glass of iced water etc, while others prefer it made much stronger. Regardless of how you have it, enjoy you Sekanjabin!

**RIOGHNACH O'GERAGHTY**







# FEBRUARY'S "ON THIS"

**1 February**  
1554

Queen Mary I gave a rousing speech at the Guildhall to rally Londoners to her cause and to oppose Wyatt's rebellion. John Proctor recorded Mary "did so wonderfully enamour the hearts of the hearers as it was world to hear with what shouts they exalted the honour and magnanimity of Queen Mary". Mary denounced Wyatt and his rebels and defended her plan to marry Philip of Spain as being beneficial to England.

**2 February**  
1550

Sir Francis Bryan, a man nicknamed "the Vicar of Hell", died suddenly at Clonmel in Ireland.

**3 February**  
1554

Thomas Wyatt the Younger and his rebels reached Southwark, London. However, Mary I had rallied her troops

**8 February**  
1601

Robert Devereux, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex, his supporters and two hundred soldiers gathered at Essex House. Essex then marched into the city crying "For the Queen! For the Queen! The crown of England is sold to the Spaniard! A plot is laid for my life!"

**9 February**  
1554

The original date set for the execution of Lady Jane Grey and Lord Guildford Dudley.

**10 February**  
1542

Catherine Howard was taken to the Tower of London by barge.

**11 February**  
1503

Death of Elizabeth of York, wife of Henry VII, from a post-partum infection.

**16 Feb**  
1495

Execution of Sir William Stanley who was found guilty of treason for supporting the pretender Perkin Warbeck.

**17 Feb**  
1584

Burial of John Watson, Bishop of Winchester, at Winchester. He was buried in the cathedral.

**18 Feb**  
1563

Francis, Duke of Guise, was wounded by a Huguenot assassin. He died six days later.

**19 Feb**  
1546

William Cavendish was appointed Treasurer of the Privy Chamber. He later claimed that he had paid £1000 for the position.



**23 Feb**  
1554

Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, was executed on Tower Hill, just 11 days after his daughter, Lady Jane Grey, and less than a month after the beginning of Wyatt's Rebellion.

**24 Feb**  
1603

Death of Katherine Howard (née Carey), Countess of Nottingham, at Arundel House.

**27 Feb**  
1545

The English forces were defeated by the Scots at the Battle of Ancrum Moor, near Jedburgh in Scotland.

**28 Feb**  
1556

Burial of Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, in a chantry tomb in Winchester Cathedral.

**29 Feb**  
1604




Death of John Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury, at Lambeth Palace.

Background image: Tapestry of the Purification of the Virgin in the nave of the cathedral of Strasbourg, France

Francis, Duke of Guise



# DAY IN TUDOR HISTORY

<p><b>4 February</b> <b>1520</b></p> <p>Mary Boleyn, sister of Anne Boleyn, married William Carey, an Esquire of the Body.</p>	<p><b>5 February</b> <b>1605</b></p> <p>Death of Sir Edward Stafford, son of Sir William Stafford (Mary Boleyn's second husband) and his second wife Dorothy Stafford. Edward was a diplomat, and there is controversy over his "spying" activities during the Armada and how much information he passed to Mendoza.</p>	<p><b>6 February</b> <b>1557</b></p> <p>The remains of reformers Martin Bucer and Paul Fagius were exhumed and publicly burned</p>	<p><b>7 February</b> <b>1587</b></p> <p>Sir Amyas Paulet read out Mary, Queen of Scots' death warrant to her, and informed her that she would be executed.</p>
<p><b>12 Feb</b> <b>1554</b></p> <p>Lady Jane Grey and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were executed for treason.</p>	<p><b>13 Feb</b> <b>1542</b></p> <p>Catherine Howard and Lady Jane Rochford were executed at the Tower of London.</p>	<p><b>14 Feb</b> <b>1601</b></p> <p>Execution of Thomas Lee, soldier, at Tyburn, after being implicated in the failed rebellion of Robert Devereux.</p>	<p><b>15 Feb</b> <b>1551</b></p> <p>Thomas Arden, businessman and inspiration for the 1592 Elizabethan play, "The Tragedie of Arden of Feversham and Blackwill", was murdered on this day. Arden was murdered by his wife, Alice, her lover, Thomas Morsby, and others after a series of botched attempts.</p>
	<p><b>20 Feb</b> <b>1547</b></p> <p>King Edward VI was crowned King at Westminster Abbey.</p> 	<p><b>21 Feb</b> <b>1568</b></p> <p>Burial of Katherine Seymour (née Grey), Countess of Hertford, at Yoxford.</p>	<p><b>22 Feb</b> <b>1540</b> </p> <p>Marie de Guise, consort of James V of Scotland and mother of Mary, Queen of Scots, was crowned in Holyrood Abbey.</p>
	<p><b>25 Feb</b> <b>1570</b></p> <p>Excommunication of Queen Elizabeth I by Pope Pius V.</p>	<p><b>26 Feb</b> <b>1552</b></p> <p>Executions of conspirators Thomas Arundell, Michael Stanhope, Miles Partridge and Ralph Fane.</p>	

Mary of Guise

## TUDOR FEAST DAYS

- 1 February- Candlemas Eve
- 2 February - Candlemas
- 3 February - Feast of St Blaise
- 14 February - St Valentine's Day
- 24 February - St Matthias the Apostle



NEXT MONTH IN YOUR REGULAR

# Tudor Life

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## MUSIC & DRAMA

ROLAND HUI

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LAUREN BROWNE

The life of Christopher Marlowe

SUSAN ABERNETHY

Tudor Music

SARAH-BETH WATKINS

Elizabeth I and Shakespeare

GARETH RUSSELL

Nicholas Udall

and much much more...

THIS MAGAZINE comes  
out every month for  
ALL MEMBERS.

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